



# Mainstreaming, are you ready?

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# Who, what, why and how?

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- Who are the campers you currently serve and who do you want to serve?
- What is your program and how will it be modified if needed.
- Why are you mainstreaming?
- How are you going to market, train your staff and monitor the success of your campers and staff.



# Program

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- Application Process
  - Will you need additional information
- Reference Checks
  - From school, Regional Center, other programs the camper is in
- Training for you staff
- Placement for success
- Evaluation



# Why are you mainstreaming?

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- Questions to be answered by you, your staff and your board.
  - Why are doing it?
  - How will we do it?
  - What resources do we have to put into this?
  - Do we have staff currently we can use or do we have to recruit?
  - Who and what will be added to our training and staff support?
  - What are our limitations?



# How to do it?

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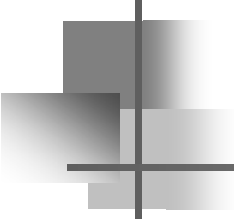
- Understanding what you can and can't successfully do?
  - Description of the program
    - For families, campers and staff
  - Role of the camper, staff with clear expectations of both
  - On going monitoring and support if needed
  - Evaluation and feedback



# Training

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- Overview of Disabilities
- Hands on experience
- Clear roles of staff and the support you have in place for them
- Speakers from various agencies
- Panel discussion with people with disabilities
- Simulations – empathy training
- Professionalism when dealing with families and campers



# Can you accommodate?

## Picking your campers

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- Clear Guidelines of what needs you can meet
  - i.e. Independent toileting
- What is a reasonable accommodation
  - Seek council legal advice when in doubt
- Age appropriate placement and programming
- Let families the importance of letting camp know what needs campers may have
- System in place to find out what the needs are – intake information



# Campers and Families

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- Sharing “Intake” information with staff
  - Confidentially
- Facilitating a meeting between camper, camper’s families and staff
- Follow up if needed



# Going to camp

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- Hire some staff with experience with disabilities
- Train staff roles of staff and how to support them
- Support for the staff while at camp
- Support for the camper while at camp
- Support for the families
- Evaluation on camper and staff



# Collaboration

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- Where to find groups
  - Easter seals -- *www.easterseals.com*
  - United Cerebral Palsy -- *www.ucpa.org*
  - Local Organizations: AbilityFirst- Southern CA – *www.abilityfirst.org*
  - Regional Centers -- *www.dds.ca.gov/rc/rclist.cfm*
  - School Districts
  - Hospitals & Rehabilitation Centers
  - American Camping Association – *www.acacamps.org*
  - Camps that currently serve this population?



# Notes

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