

The Include Me Program is designed to promote and expand effective inclusive practices for students in grades K – 12 with significant impact of disabilities and the schools they attend. We work with participating student teams to provide highly individualized training and on-site technical assistance. The end goal is for students to attend school with the supports they need to be successfully and meaningfully included in general education classrooms and school teams are skilled and confident in providing the needed supports.

Highly skilled and qualified Include Me Program consultants provide support and training (free of charge) on many topics and areas for school personnel/student teams (including administrators, general and special education teachers, guidance counselors, school nurses, paraprofessionals, support staff and parents and family members of children with significant impact of disabilities). Training and technical assistance is highly individualized and may include:

- Facilitation of the Supplementary Aids and Services Toolkit, as requested by student team
- Curricular adaptations and access to the general education curriculum
- District and parent communication skill building
- Assistive technology
- Cultural competence
- The Hidden Curriculum
- Writing IEP goals and progress monitoring
- Trauma-informed behavior supports
- Disability awareness
- Social-emotional Learning
- The essential elements of Customized Employment
- The Importance of building Social Capital as a tool for Transition Planning
- Universal Design for Learning
- E-Learning modules

[Email us to learn more about The Arc of PA's Professional Development Guide!](#)

AND [Click this link to check out our free, self-paced E-Learning options!](#)

ADEPT:

ADEPT provides support to transition students by facilitating a Discovery Assessment, a Customized Plan for Transition, and Visual Resume. This program will help students identify career interests, skills and potential challenges. The student's transition team will be able to use this information to better prepare the student for transition. In addition, ADEPT may be able to create customized internships to explore potential careers. The internships are arranged by ADEPT Staff with employers, based on the specific needs of the business that match with the student's demonstrated skills, interests, and needs.

In addition, The Arc of Pennsylvania has partnered with Marc Gold & Associates to provide national certification and training to people interested in providing Discovery, Job Development/Customized Employment, and Systematic Instruction services for individuals with a significant impact of disability. Learn how to plan, develop, and implement customized employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities in these certification courses offered throughout the year.

[Click the link to register for our ACRE Basic Certification Training!](#)

[Click here to learn more about our other Certification Courses!](#)

Upcoming Sessions:

- ACRE:
February 22-24
March 13-15
March 29-31
- Discovery:
March 22-24
May 10-12
- Customized Job Development:
April 12-14

"DISABILITY ACCEPTANCE THROUGH LITERATURE" BOOK STUDIES:

Books selected by our facilitators provide opportunities to learn about the many aspects of disability through the perspective of school age protagonists. Discussions center on understanding, acceptance, presuming competence, and friendship. We strive to make the book studies accessible, with:

- audio recordings of each chapter,
- vocabulary resources,
- engaging visual content for discussions, and,
- by providing copies of the book to families as the book studies gear up.

Current Sessions:

- Out of My Mind
(Ages: 8-12 and 12-17)
January 11- March 1

These four-to-eight-week book studies make room for silliness and curiosity, and we're proud of the stigma-blasting power of the program (and that of the students themselves!). Include Me connects each book study and accompanying lessons to the Pennsylvania Academic Standards.

[Click this link to register for an upcoming Book Study!](#)

INCLUDE ME CONNECTION CLUB:

This series offers creative outlets for increasing self-expression & self-advocacy skills. Designed for students in 3-5th grade, featuring: games, activities & interactive discussions with our energetic facilitators.

[Click this link to register for an upcoming meeting!](#)

Upcoming Sessions:

- February 21 and 28
5:30p-6:30p

INCLUDI-CON: SUMMER INCLUSION INSTITUTE

A 3-day virtual conference, featuring nationally known representatives and speakers to discuss inclusion, assistive technology, social emotional learning, and much more. Previous speakers have included Paula Kluth, Julie Causton, and Dave Edyburn. Please put this amazing event in your calendar and stay tuned for updates!

Save The Date:

June 20-23

MEASURABLE IMPACT

We believe in the importance of running an effective program that makes a lasting impact on students and schools. The Arc of Pennsylvania found an independent group to research the efficacy of our program and methods. The latest evaluation of Include Me's impact was a ten-year review conducted by the Office of Child Development at the University of Pittsburgh.

[Click here to read the evaluative report!](#)



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