



Parent Story

A successful school experience

I chose the school primarily because I was impressed with their attitude towards children with a disability. My favourite quote from the principal is, "We have 400 children with special needs. Every child is special!"

So what has helped my boys have a successful experience at school?

First, I think it was an inherent belief by the school that all children deserved an education that suited their individual needs. This belief was matched by a commitment to work hard to achieve that.

Second, it was the school's willingness to work together with parents. There was respect for what I knew as a parent and consideration of my suggestions about possible improvements to the educational programs. This was also extended to specialists I invited to consult with teachers.

Third, there was good communication. Both aides and teachers communicated regularly. Little issues were dealt with in the early stages before they escalated.

There was a willingness to try new things and to make changes. The school listened to my suggestions and they were prepared to learn new skills and 'give it a go'.

Student Support Group meetings have usually been well run and useful. I had input into setting the agenda and deciding which of my son's specialists would attend each meeting.

I have made a point of taking time to give positive feedback to teachers and aides. One of the reasons we have a good relationship is because they know I appreciate their efforts. I guess it works both ways.

I can't say that it has all been smooth sailing. There have been some difficult times but overall I have been very happy with what has been put in place for my two boys.

From speaking to other parents, I know that my positive experience at the school is considered to be the exception rather than the rule, and I feel very lucky to have such a committed group of individuals supporting my sons.

Parent

© Association for Children with a Disability 2010

This parent story is part of the Inclusive Classroom School Resource published by the Association for Children with a Disability with support from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. For more information go to www.acd.org.au/inclusive_classroom

Association for Children with a Disability, Suite 2, 98 Morang Road, Hawthorn VIC 3122
Phone 03 9818 2000 or 1800 654 013 (rural callers) Email mail@acd.org.au Web www.acd.org.au