Facilitating Membership in Head Start Classrooms

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Inclusion is not a set of strategies or a placement issue. Inclusion is about belonging to a community – a group of friends, a school community, or a neighborhood. (Allen & Schwartz, 2001, p.4)
“Inclusion is a right, not a privilege for a select few”
Community of Practice
Participation in valued routines, rituals and activities

- Membership
- Relationships
- Skills
A member is

- Somebody who belongs to and participates in a particular group

- Signs of membership include accommodations that we make to help children participate in groups and activities
Strategies to facilitate membership

- Assign children to groups at tables that are consistent over time
- Design activities in the classroom that require and support multiple participants (e.g., group art projects, games)
- Encourage children to help each other
- Make sure there is something everyone can do independently
Have fun and help your students have fun!