

SOCIAL INCLUSION PROGRAM: INTERVENTIONS

"Hi, I hope you found value in and have enjoyed going through the Social Inclusion and RTE Pack with the resources so far.

I invite you to use this document as a reference for **interventions, tips and strategies** which we have developed over the years to design our Social Inclusion Program with a **360 degree approach**, involving all stakeholders, with the **key purpose of addressing the child's need**. The effort of **inclusion** becomes empowered manifold, when every teacher, student and parent **celebrates the diversity** in the classroom and contributes in meaningful ways to make a difference.

Acceptance of a child under RTE and immersion in the regular schooling system is just the first step of inclusion. The interventions described below are very simple to execute. **Please feel free to innovate, translate and implement the way best suited to your ecosystem**. And, I would love to know how you have done it, Do share your experience."

- *Priyanka Prasad*

INTERVENTIONS AND STRATEGIES UNDER THE INCLUSION PROGRAM

A. THE CHILD

- ❑ **Home Visits (twice a year):** This is where teachers visit every child's home to know the child better and get an **insight** into their **background**. The objective of the first home visit is to **remove assumptions** and to understand the **home environment** of the child. The second home visit is need based and explores if the family and the child are **comfortable** with the school and if any concerns need to be addressed.
- ❑ **One-on-one Sessions (twice a week):** The purpose here is to address the **cognitive, social and emotional needs** of the child. These sessions ensure one-on-one interaction between the teacher and the students.
- ❑ **Summer School 'Teach to Reach Summer Program' (Once a year):** To **bridge the gap** and **reinforce learning**, sessions are conducted during summer break. This is a **volunteer based** program started by 'The Riverside School' to ensure **academic rigor** and continuity in the learning process for students during their summer vacations. It is also actioned with the intention to promote regular practice and better retention of concepts.

- ❑ **World is my school (fortnightly exposure):** This is a shared social experience that provides opportunity for the students to experience and **explore their surroundings** which enables them to deepen their learning! This is a volunteer based program that provides exposure to students who may not get these opportunities at the home front. Examples of this are educational and fun visits to Museums, heritage walks, National Institute of Design, visit to aquarium, etc.
- ❑ **After school program (three times a week):** This allows the students varied opportunities to develop their skills. The aim here is to provide a wide range of **touch-points** for children, such as martial arts, theatre and dance, robotics, etc.

B. PARENT

- ❑ **'Parent Engagement Program'** is an **adult literacy and support initiative** which was started in the year 2011 at Riverside School for the RTE parents with the idea that their literacy, awareness and empowerment (especially mothers) is crucial for development of their child. Parent engagement helps a child to receive better education, enhanced engagement with school work, regular attendance, better behavior and increased social skills. And this is key in **bridging the gap** between home and school.
- ❑ This is done by offering **tutorship** in English, Math and Computers for parents. Computer sessions, Well Being and awareness workshops (need based) for parents, Entrepreneurial support (need based) are also included. It is an opportunity for parents to learn and hone their skills and enhance their knowledge.
- ❑ Regular **parent updates** on the progress of the child is also an important way to keep parents in the loop and also for them to know how they can make a contribution in enhancing their **child's learning**.

C. RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY AND THE LARGER ECOSYSTEM

- ❑ **Team Meetings (Once a fortnight):** Regular teacher meetings are conducted for raising **awareness** and monitoring the **conduct** of the program. The growth and progress of the child are discussed and planning is done for the following fortnight.
- ❑ **Meeting the experts (need based):** Teacher team meets lawyers or other **experts** to get more clarity on the law or changes in the RTE act.
- ❑ **Parent and Student Volunteers:** Parents, professionals and children (anyone above 15 years of age) from **Riverside or other organisations** are welcomed as volunteers for any of the programs like the "World is my school", 'Summer School', 'After School program', etc.

- ❑ **Buddy Program:** A great strategy is to get children from older grades to buddy with the younger ones and help them with academics, rigour or just spend time with them. Key Stage 3 buddies take school sessions for the kids thrice a week under a program called **Persistence**. This becomes a great way to involve students in the program and build a **school community** that cares for each other. It is a program, where skills of the students are identified and they are encouraged to take the sessions aligned with what they are passionate about. This helps children to develop their interest further and boost their self-esteem and confidence. The program is **co-created** where children themselves have to plan the sessions, add value and feel **responsible and committed** toward the growth in the skills that they would have selected for themselves.

All of the above ensures that the entire community within and outside school is involved to make it an inclusive and richer program for all.

SOME IMPORTANT TIPS

- ❑ It is important to stay vigilant, keep oneself **updated** and read up on any **changes or amendments** in the law.
- ❑ Meeting up with the **District Education Officer** from time to time is also helpful in keeping oneself updated.
- ❑ Meeting various **stakeholders** like experts, lawyers or other schools is a great way to get a **fresh perspective** or insight on the best practices, clarify any issues, and come up with better solutions to implement the program smoothly.