

inclusion services



WHAT IS INCLUSION?

Inclusion within the Rockford Park District means individuals with disabilities are welcome to participate in the same recreation programs and activities as their peers. Reasonable accommodations are provided to enable an individual's successful participation in a program.

HOW?

The Rockford Park District welcomes and supports the participation of individuals with disabilities in all programs and services.

- Consultation on activity modification
- Disability awareness training
- Behavior modification support
- Observation and evaluation
- Visual systems and sensory equipment/toys
- Sign language interpreters
- Adapted equipment (*sleds, skate walkers, hand cranked bicycles, sport wheelchairs*)
- Varying levels of staff support

Popular programs in which individuals with disabilities have been included:

- Lessons (*swimming, hockey, ice skating, horseback riding, tennis, golf*)
- Day and residential summer camps (*Summer Blast, Nature Quest, Camp Lone Oak, Pony Camp*)
- Neighborhood programs (*Playgrounds, Lewis Lemon and Washington Park community centers*)
- Environmental education and recreation
- Youth sports
- Rec nights

Inclusion Services has created successful inclusion opportunities by:

- Implementing a positive support plan for a child with a conduct disorder in a full day summer camp setting.
- Providing an all-terrain wheelchair for a student with a physical disability for full trail access at Atwood Environmental Center.
- Creating and training staff on an enhanced visual system for a camper with a visual impairment.
- Trained staff supported a camper with an attention deficit disorder by providing additional supports such as redirection and positive reinforcements at a sports camp.
- Providing a sign language interpreter for a teen at horseback riding lessons.

A PARENT'S GUIDE TO INCLUSION

STEPS TO RECEIVE INCLUSION SUPPORT

1. Register for desired Rockford Park District program at Webbs Norman Center, Carlson Ice Arena, or www.rockfordparkdistrict.org
2. Check "yes" where the registration form states, "... *does the participant have a disability or medical conditions that may require assistance or accommodation?*"
3. A team member from Inclusion Services will contact you within 48 hours to assess needs, level of support, and an appropriate start date.

INCLUSION SERVICES ROLES

1. Contact family/guardian to complete full assessment.
2. Obtain and organize any additional information, equipment, and additional support staff (*if applicable*).
3. Notify program staff of participants' needs and their role in supporting the participant in their program.
4. Communicate with family any updates, changes, or information they need to be made aware of before the start of the program.
5. Maintain communication with parents/guardians, support staff, and program staff, throughout the course of the program.
6. Recommendations will be addressed based on the participant's progress or level of success in the program.

PARENTS' ROLE

1. Verify the participant meets minimum eligibility requirements of program (*i.e., age, registration, and level of participation*)
2. Keep in mind, recreation programs and activities are voluntary in nature. Participation will be encouraged and aided, but not forced.
3. Communicate openly with inclusion services staff by providing pertinent information on participant's needs for successful inclusion.
4. Communicate absences to inclusion and/or program staff in advance.
5. Provide constructive feedback on participant's progress and response to inclusion effort



inclusion services continued

Hear what people are saying about Inclusion Services and how it is changing the lives of our residents.

"We are so grateful for this program; it is the only summer program I can send my son to and have peace of mind knowing the staff can handle my son's issues. The staff did everything they could to make it a successful experience."

"My son has a great summer having the ability to participate in golf and tennis. I am truly at ease when he is there because of the level of understanding that the staff have. Thank you so much!"

"The Inclusion staff were great, super enthusiastic, high energy, and great communication."

For additional questions, contact **ABBY OAKLEY** 815-987-1610 (TTY, 888-871-6171) or e-mail Inclusion@rockfordparkdistrict.org



ACCESS SERVICES OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS

AWARENESS AND RESOURCE FAIR

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ROCKFORD PARK DISTRICT THERAPEUTIC RECREATION TEAM

MARCH 27, 2010
at HARLEM HIGH SCHOOL in Loves Park

Family Resources

Support Groups

Adaptive Technology

Early Intervention

Awareness and Resource Fair (previously the Green Bear Fair) brought to you by Access Services, in partnership with the Rockford Park District

fax ○ 815-987-8877

online ○ rockfordparkdistrict.org/TR