

Increasing Opportunities for Access & Inclusion

Presentation for the Acton-Boxborough Family Network



Special Education Parent Advisory Council



Mission:

The Acton-Boxborough Special Education Parent Advisory Council's mission is to ensure understanding, respect, support, and the appropriate education of all children in our community.

2017-2018 Goal: Identify ways to improve inclusion practices in the schools and community

The numbers

~10% of children birth to 3 receive Early Intervention services from Minute Man Arc

17.4% of MA students have a disability served by an Individualized Education Program (IEP)

16.4% of students ages 3 to 22 in the ABRSD have IEPs

Others have 504 Plans, or accessibility accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Data from MA Department of Public Health for July 2014-June 2015 and MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) as of October 1, 2017

1 in 5

“People with disabilities constitute our nation’s largest minority group, which is simultaneously the most inclusive and the most diverse. Everyone is represented: of all genders, all ages, all religions, all socioeconomic levels and all ethnic backgrounds. The disability community is the only minority group that anyone can join at any time.” —The Arc

“Inclusion works to the advantage of everyone. We all have things to learn and we all have something to teach.” —Helen Henderson

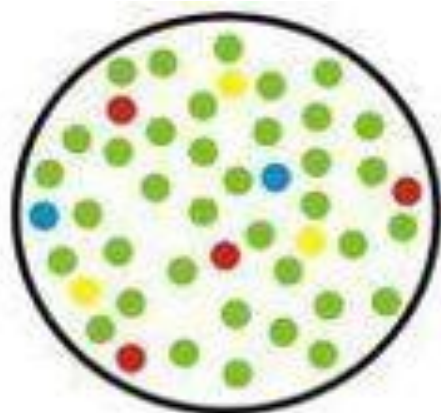
Defining terms

Accessibility – 1) Being able to physically enter an environment and 2) how an environment or service allows for full, independent usage

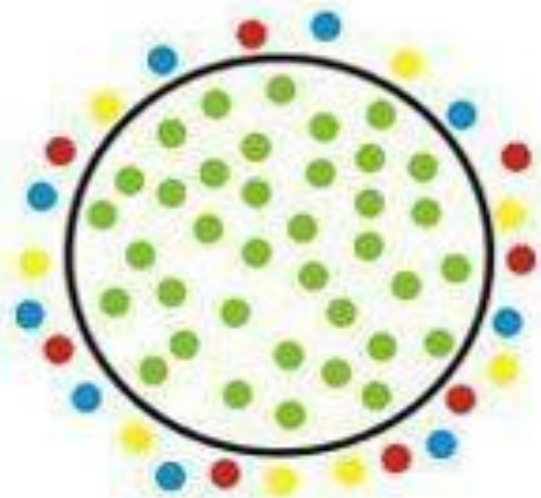
Inclusion – Involving people with disabilities in everyday activities and encouraging them to have roles similar to their peers who do not have a disability

Adaptation/Accommodation – Changing an environment to enable participation

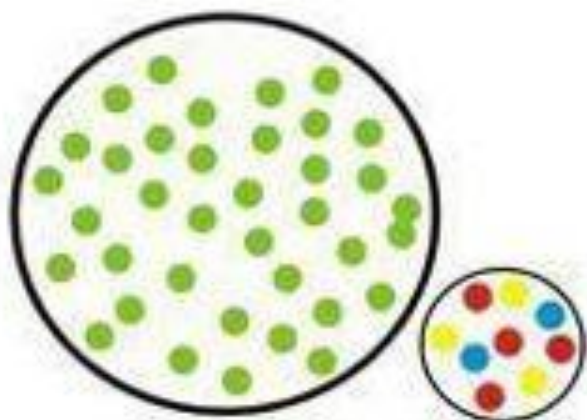
<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth>



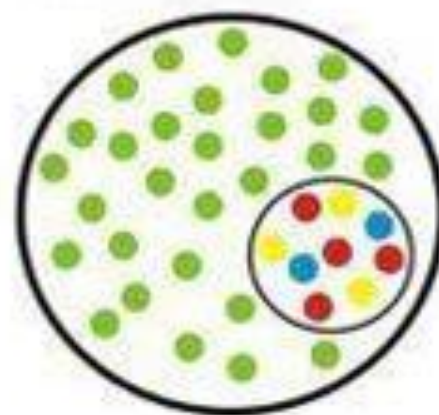
Inclusion



Exclusion



Segregation



Integration

What are barriers to access?

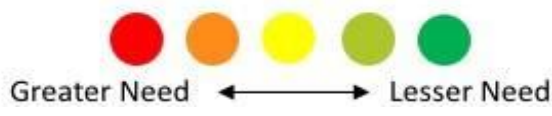
“The disability is not the problem.
The accessibility is the problem.”
—Mohamed Jemni

- Location, location, location
- Sensory demands
- Communication methods



Elementary Physical Access

	Admin (Pre-K)	Blanchard	Conant	Douglas	Gates	McCarthy-Towne & Merriam	Jr High	High School	Maintenance Bldg
Health, Safety, & Welfare	Yellow	Light Green	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Green	Light Green	Light Green	Red
Code Compliance	Red	Orange	Red	Red	Red	Light Green	Light Green	Green	Red
Functional Use	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Green	Light Green	Green	Red
Handicap Accessibility	Red	Green	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Green	Light Green	Green	Orange
Maintenance	Yellow	Light Green	Orange	Yellow	Red	Light Green	Yellow	Green	Green
Energy Efficiency	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Orange	Light Green	Light Green	Light Green	Red
Hazardous Materials	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Orange	Red	Green	Green	Green	Yellow



Accessible Playgrounds/Playscapes

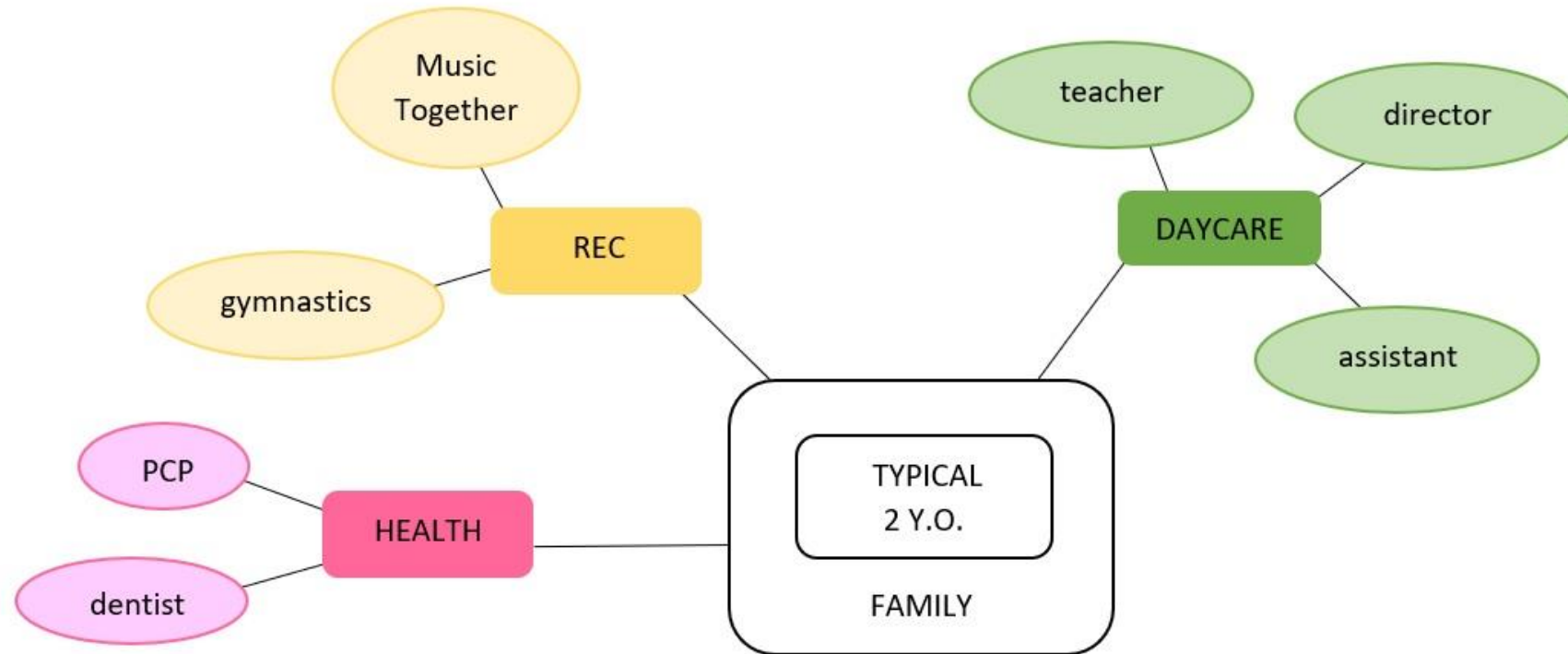


- The Playscape at Ripley, 120 Meriam Road, Concord
- SMILE Sudbury Playground, intersection of Hudson and Fairbanks
- Ronan McElligott Playground, 55 Williams Avenue, Westford

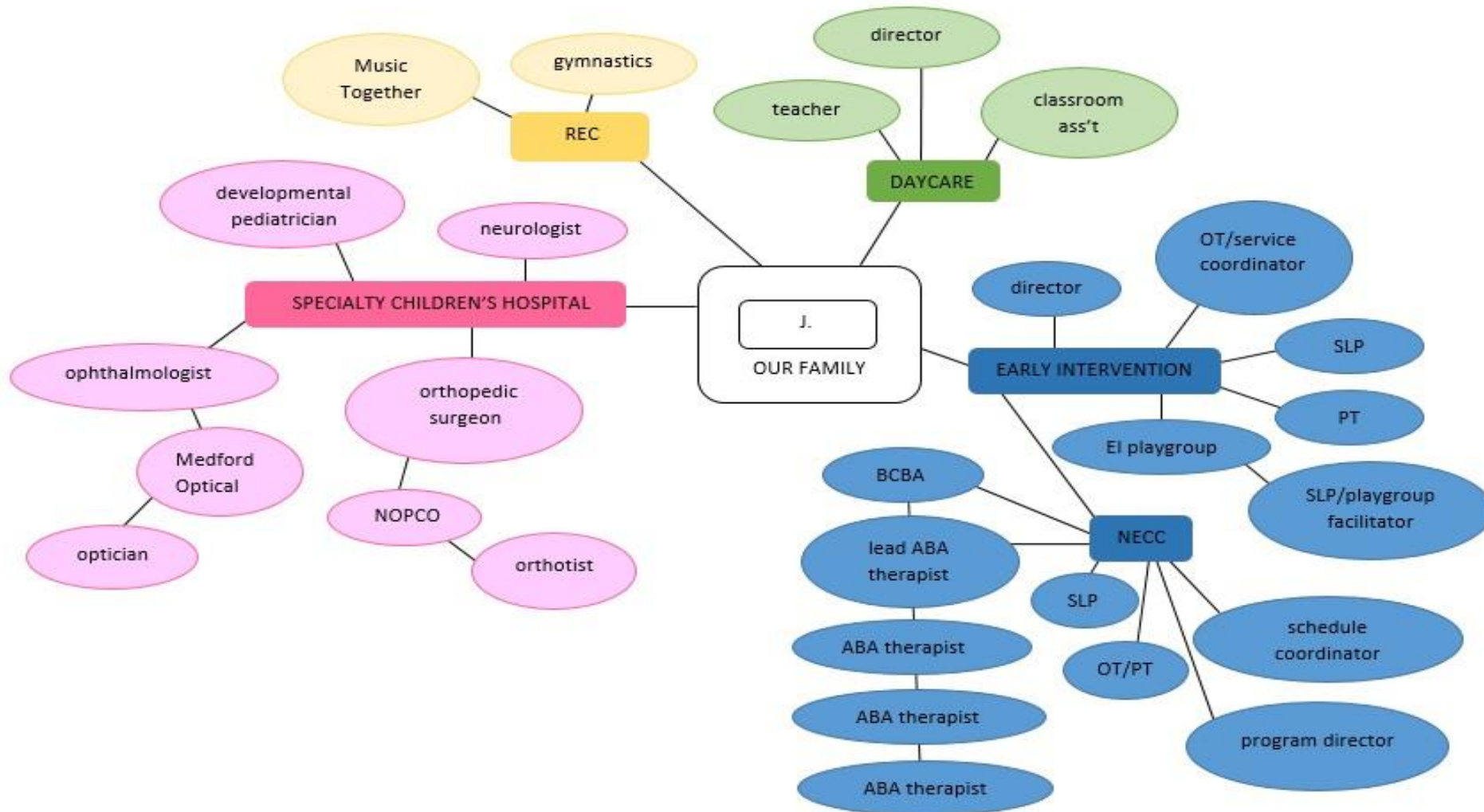
- Discovery Woods, 177 Main Street, Acton

- *partial* Rideout Playground, 61 Laws Brook Road, Concord

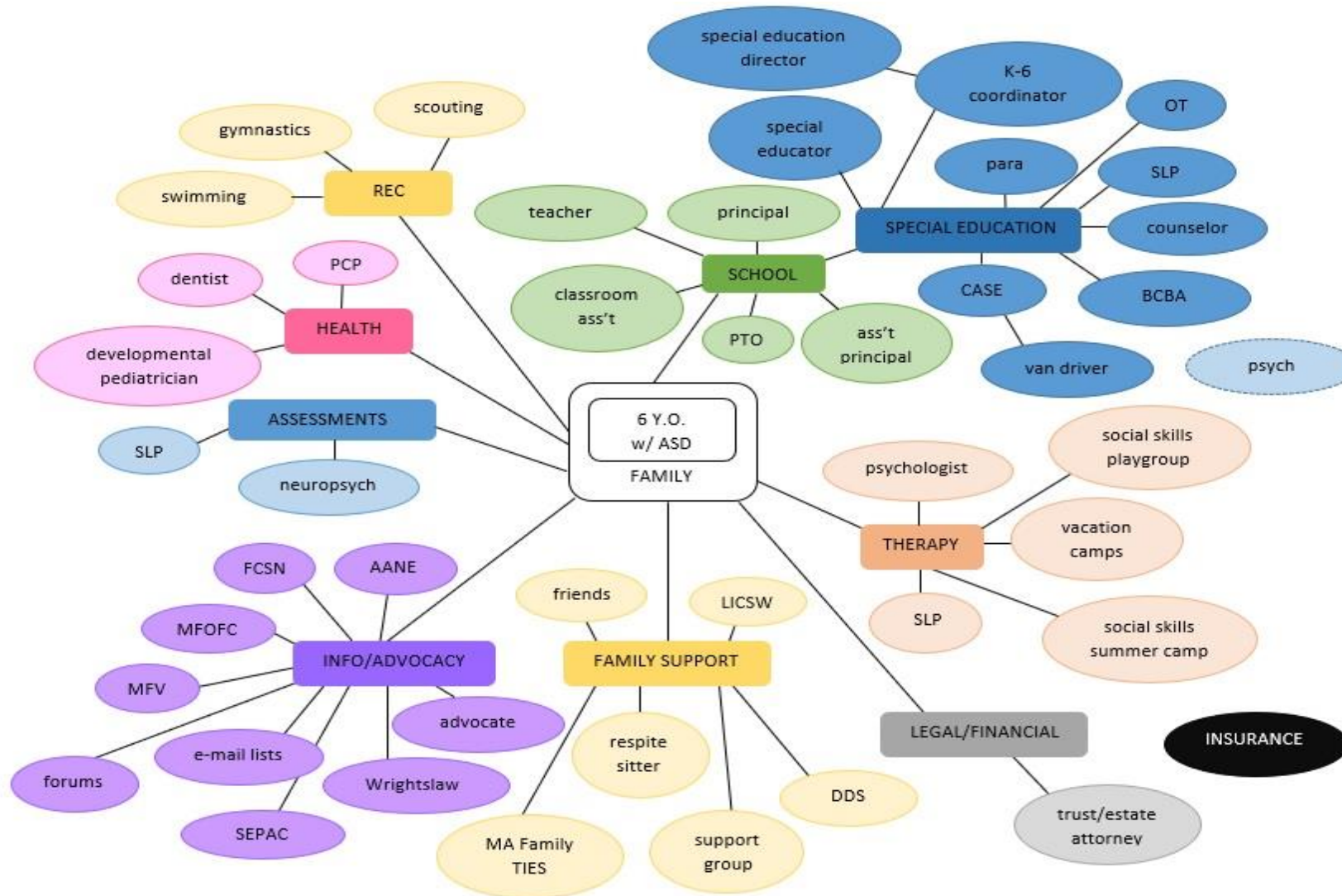
Care Map – Typical Two-Year-Old



Care Map – Two-Year-Old with Autism



Care Map – Six-Year-Old with Autism



What are barriers to inclusion?

- Social norms (e.g., schedules)
- Attitudes and misconceptions
- Education
- Parents need to ask—and that's not always easy

ollibean.com

www.thinkinclusive.us

Other Resources for Families

- Federation for Children with Special Needs
fcsn.org
- Mass Family Voices at the Federation
fcsn.org/mfv/
- Family TIES of Massachusetts
massfamilyties.org
- Acton-Boxborough Special Education Parent Advisory Council
abspedpac.org
- Massachusetts Sibling Support Network
masiblingsupport.org