

KANSAS EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES INCLUSION INITIATIVE
September 2009

VISION

Kansas is the best place to raise a child.

MISSION/GOAL

The Kansas Expanding Opportunities Interagency Inclusion Initiative exists to make inclusion a reality for all children and their families in order to assure that children of all abilities have access to and are included in every aspect of community life. Families will receive the supports needed to participate fully in community life.

VALUES

We believe that in order for children and their families to receive and benefit from inclusive services:

- State level agency initiatives and system change efforts are coordinated and consolidated whenever appropriate.
- Agencies work together to share information, resources and plans.
- Agencies understand each other's programs, goals and activities.
- Agencies effectively coordinate, use and maximize resources.
- Training and technical assistance to personnel is planned, thoughtful, coordinated, and accessible across agencies.
- Community programs are systematically encouraged to value all children and families.
- Communities value and support early childhood programs and services.
- Personnel working with young children receive the support and professional development they need.
- Personnel have the knowledge and skills to provide quality services.
- Personnel provide appropriate services and supports to families.
- Personnel recognize and address family needs, strengths and concerns.
- Families have access to high quality learning environments and services provided by all early childhood programs.
- Families have access to and receive needed information and supports in order to make informed choices.

PROJECTED GOALS and ACTIVITIES

1. Change expectations and attitudes regarding inclusion through public awareness and public relations activities.
2. Identify and address policies and procedures that present barriers to inclusion for children (birth-8yrs) in Kansas.
3. Collaborate to design, improve and coordinate a statewide professional development system.
4. Improve and maintain statewide collaboration and coordination among early care and education agencies and organizations to promote and implement inclusion.