Introduction to Inclusive Education

Brainstorming

- Adaptation
- Creativity
- Acceptance
- Flexibility
- Support
- Love
- Empathy
- Participation
- Happiness
- Positive mind

- Open mind
- Therapy
- Interactivity
- Inclusion
- Diversity
- Multiculturality
- Communication/cooperation
- Respect
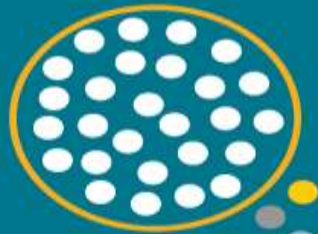- Perspective

Group definition

Inclusive education

- "Inclusive education is when **all students**, regardless of any challenges they may have, are placed in **age-appropriate general education classes** that are in their own neighborhood schools to receive high **quality instruction, interventions, and supports** that enable them to meet success in the core curriculum" (Bui, Quirk, Almazan, & Valenti, 2010; Alquraini & Gut, 2012).

- The aim of inclusive education is **to respond to the learning needs of all children**, whatever their needs are (physical, cognitive, academic, social, emotional..)

Special educational needs

- Umbrella term used to describe a wide range of disability levels that make learning harder than other children of the same age.

- Include learning difficulties, emotional or behavioural problems, development disorders or physical and sensory disabilities.

- According to the OECD, almost **20% of students** may develop a special educational need during their schooling years ⬚   need for:
  - Early identification
  - Intervention
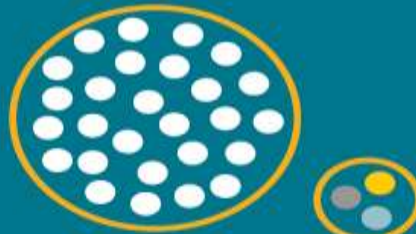 - Awareness
  - Flexible and personalized learning

Basic concepts

- **Accessibility**: it refers to providing systems and solutions to optimise access in content, methods and environment. When it comes to education, it means **designing learning experiences without barriers** that allow all students to achieve the main pedagogical objectives.

- **Inclusion:** according to UNESCO, inclusion is a mindset that involves valuing the **presence, participation and achievement** of all learners regardless of their contexts and personal characteristics and recognising the benefits of student diversity.

EXCLUSION

Exclusion occurs when students are directly or indirectly prevented from or denied access to education in any form.

SEGREGATION

Segregation occurs when the education of students with disabilities is provided in separate environments designed or used to respond to a particular or various impairments, in isolation from students without disabilities.

INTEGRATION

Integration is a process of placing persons with disabilities in existing mainstream educational institutions, as long as the former can adjust to the standardized requirements of such institutions.
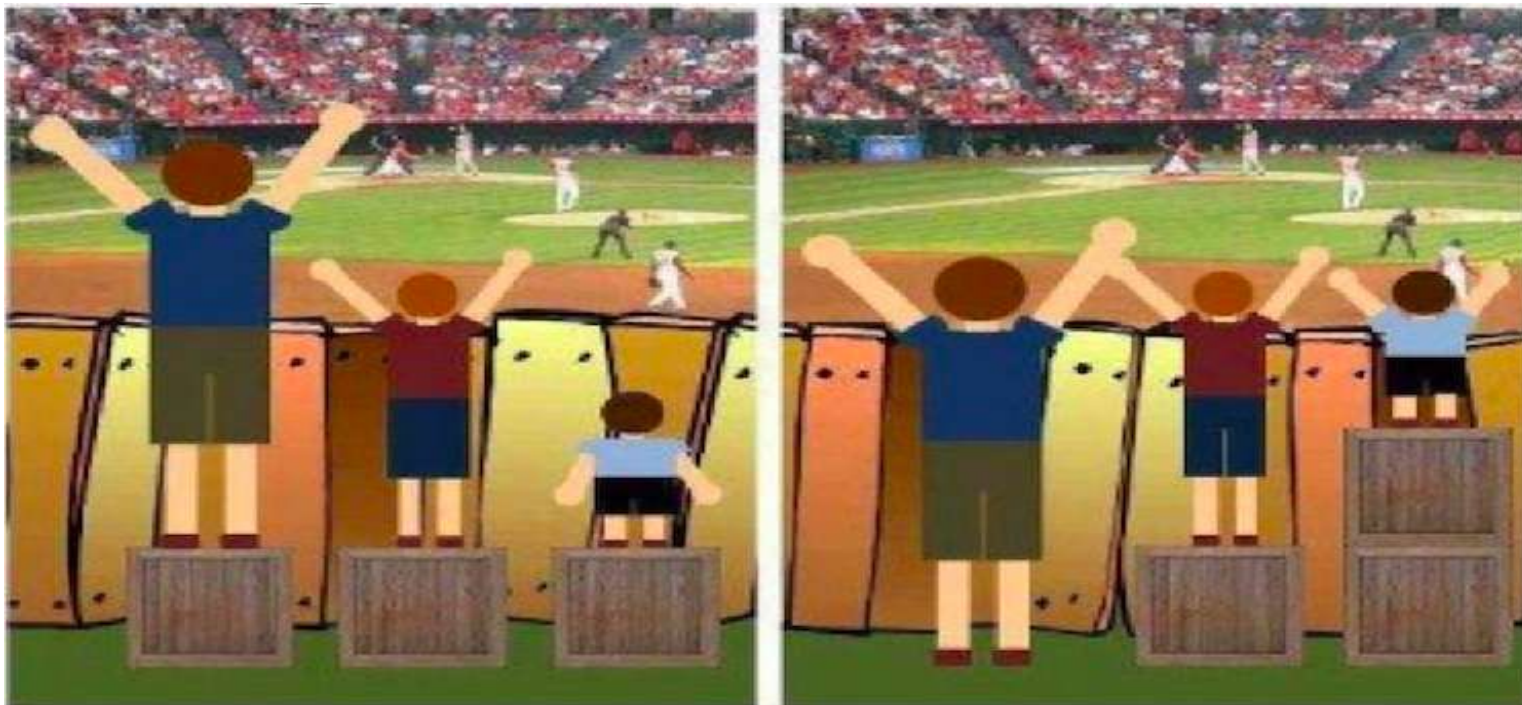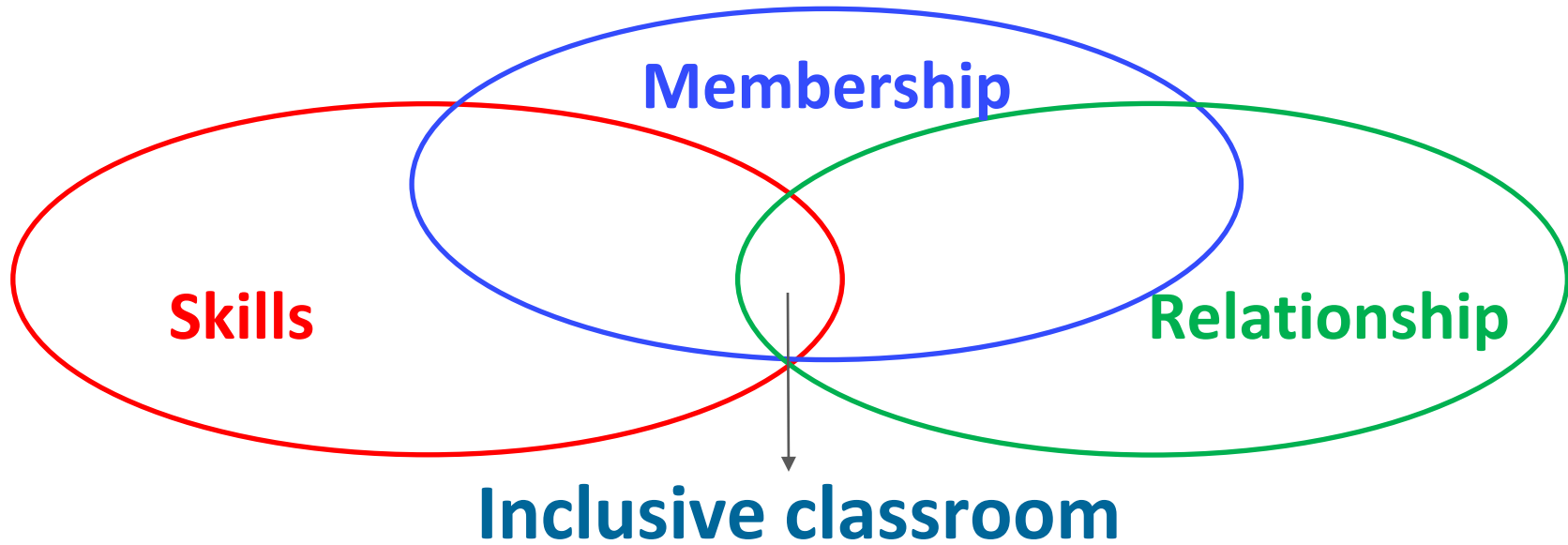
Inclusion involves a process of systemic reform embodying changes and modifications in content, teaching methods, approaches, structures and strategies in education to overcome barriers with a vision serving to provide all students of the relevant age range with an equitable and participatory learning experience and environment that best corresponds to their requirements and preferences.

Placing students with disabilities within mainstream classes without accompanying structural changes to, for example, organisation, curriculum and teaching and learning strategies, does not constitute inclusion. Furthermore, integration does not automatically guarantee the transition from segregation to inclusion.

INCLUSION

From integration to inclusion

Desired outcomes

Membership

Skills

Relationship

Inclusive classroom

Which are the benefits of IE?

- Equity
- Diversification
- Opportunity
- High quality of education
- Positive self esteem
- High quality of likfe
- Being accepted/appreciated from the society
- Feel valued

Benefits of inclusive education

Inclusive Education responds to the learning needs of all children:

- **Pedagogical benefits**: it benefits everyone, since it creates new, different ways to access information, contents and materials.

- **Social benefits:** it leads the children to become citizens who are open and tolerant and can live in peace and harmony with each other

Inclusive education in europe

- Access to inclusive education (80% time placement benchmark)

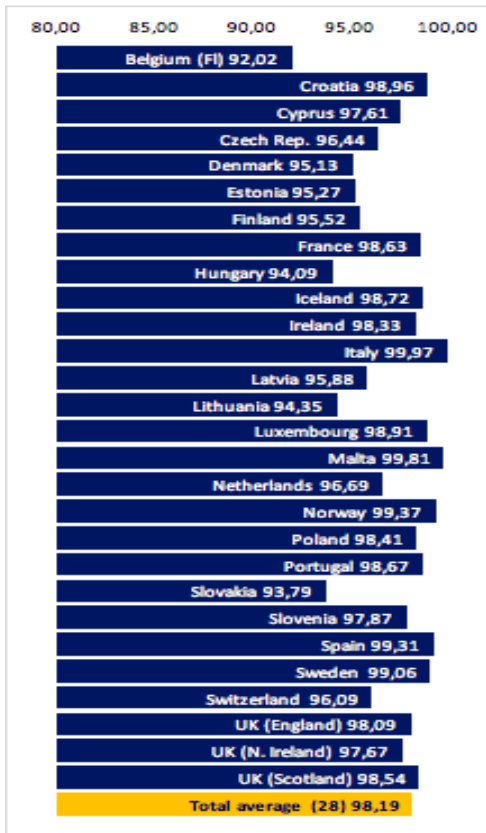- Placement unfortunately doesn't mean inclusion

Figure 2. Enrolment rate in inclusive education, based on the enrolled school population (%)

Activity: inclusive education in your school (and country)