

Dear Parents,

Some of you may or may not already know (your child's name). For those of you who do not, our child has (your child's diagnosis) and is excited to be in class with your child!

We understand that you and your child may have questions about (your child's diagnosis). Children with (diagnosis) are now included in mainstream classrooms and achieving great academic and social success. It is only through supportive environments that these individuals will meet with success beyond the school setting. We have the same expectations for our child as you do – we all hope our children will learn to the best of their ability, make lasting friendships, follow school rules, and be contributing members of the classroom and, ultimately, the community. Your child's role modeling and positive interactions will help our child to be successful in these areas.

Research on inclusion has shown that forming friendship with children who have special needs will have a positive effect on your child as well, including meaningful friendships, increased appreciation and acceptance of diversity, and respect for all people. Research further shows that this can translate to greater academic outcomes for typically-developing students, as they gain additional mastery over subject areas by practicing and teaching others.

We encourage you to talk openly with your child about the similarities of all children to ensure a positive classroom environment for each and every student.

We are including some information for you about (diagnosis). We hope you will contact us if your family has any questions. Our child really enjoys school and hopes to become friends with all of your wonderful children.

Sincerely,