



MAP* to Inclusion & Belonging Newsletter

***Making Access Possible**

August 2016

[MAP* to Inclusion and Belonging... *Making Access Possible](#) Project, funded by the Early Education and Support Division of the California Department of Education, provides information, resources, supports and training to help child care providers, educators, specialists and families include children and youth with disabilities and other special needs in child care, after school and community settings. MAP New Briefs alert you to newly identified resources and practices that support optimal development and well-being in high quality environments where children with and without disabilities and special needs can thrive together.

The 2016 Inclusion Conference



[The 2016 Inclusion Conference at the Santa Clara County Office of Education](#) October 27 and 28, 2016 offers low cost, high quality professional development on inclusion from birth through high school. Register now if you can attend in person because the slots will be gone soon! Virtual conference attendance is available for individuals and for groups. The purchase of one virtual conference registration will give you access to all 20 of the live streamed and recorded sessions and all handouts. This is a great option for those who want to use the sessions for professional development for staff and families at later dates. [Find out more about the conference by downloading the 2016 Inclusion Conference Registration Program and check out the Being A Virtual Host Site](#) for everything you need to know about remote participation.

Our own Linda Brault, director of the MAP Project, will be presenting on aspects of the federal Policy Statement on Inclusion. Find out more about the Policy Statement in the next article!

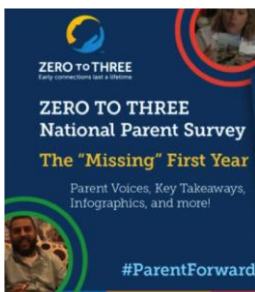
Building a Culture of Inclusion: 10 Guiding Questions



[The January 2016 MAP Newsletter](#), introduced the federal [Policy Statement on Inclusion of Children with Disabilities in Early Childhood Programs](#) and identified California's inclusion resources as well as key federal resources and other new resources that support recommendations from the Policy Statement. The resources are framed as the title suggests: Building a Culture of Inclusion: 10 Guiding Questions. This is a must read resource for anyone who is creating or sustaining inclusive settings.

[The 2016 National Inclusion Webinar Series](#) supports and promotes the Policy Statement on Inclusion. The February 2016 Webinar presents the latest research supporting inclusion, ways to address barriers and new resources. It is titled: Preschool Inclusion: [What's the Evidence, What Gets in the Way, and What do High-Quality Programs Look Like?](#)

Resources for Families: The "Missing" First Year

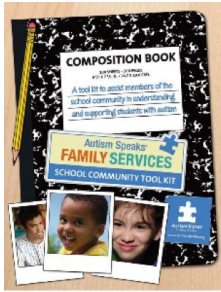


[ZERO TO THREE's National Parent Survey, Tuning In](#), conducted in partnership with the Bezos Family Foundation, revealed that a notable portion of parents miss the mark on what is happening with their baby's development by months, or even years. ZERO TO THREE calls this misalignment of knowledge and expectations the "Missing" First Year.

To address the "Missing" First Year, ZERO TO THREE has created resources designed to help raise awareness about the critical importance of connections in the first months and years of babies' lives. The materials provide tips that can help parents and

caregivers nurture babies' brain development starting at birth, including building language and communication skills, raising a reader from the get-go, and putting brain science into action. Download the infographics and direct your families to these great resources!

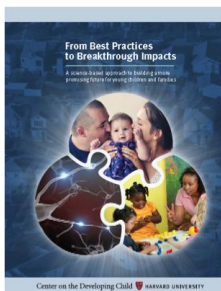
Including Kids with Autism: School Community Tool Kit



[This tool kit from Autism Speaks](#) provides valuable information and resources that can be employed by special education and administrative staff in their efforts to plan for and support students in general education environments and involvement in the school community as a whole.

The kit includes handouts designed for specific members of the school community (classmates, bus drivers, teachers, peers, paraprofessionals, security, administrators and more) with information about the needs of kids with autism and strategies for providing a positive environment and successful interactions.

8 Things to Remember About Child Development



Building on a well-established knowledge base more than half a century in the making, recent advances in the science of early childhood development and its underlying biology provide a deeper understanding that can inform and improve existing policy and practice, as well as help generate new ways of thinking about solutions. [8 Things to Remember About Child Development](#), featured

in the From Best Practices to Breakthrough Impacts report from the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard, sets the record straight about some aspects of early child development. This important list clearly describes key factors that endanger and promote healthy development of very young children.

For more information on Inclusion

[Visit the MAP to Inclusion and Belonging website](#) or contact the MAP Team at map@wested.org



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