

Least Restrictive Environment:

A Parent / Guardian's Guide to Success

Video Transcript

[Start of transcript]

Host: "Hello, everyone! Today, we'll explore the concept of the Least Restrictive Environment, or LRE, which is a fundamental principle in special education. We'll answer some key questions to help you understand its importance and how it impacts your child's education and programming."

Host: "The Least Restrictive Environment means that children with disabilities should learn alongside their non-disabled peers as much as possible. It isn't about a specific place; it's a guiding principle that ensures each child has access to education that feels as inclusive and typical as possible. It's vital because it supports educational equality and encourages social integration for all students."

Host: "Your child should be in a setting that allows them to participate with peers without disabilities to the greatest extent suitable for their needs. Ask yourself if the services and supports outlined in your child's Individualized Education Program, or IEP, are being implemented in a way that promotes inclusion. This can be a complicated question and have many facets but ask your IEP team if any questions arise for you. Regular communication, IEP meeting decisions and updates from the school can help assure that your child is in their LRE."

Host: "LRE can look different for each student because every child has unique needs. For some, it might mean being in a general education classroom with additional supports. For others, it might involve a mix of general and special education settings. The key is to tailor the educational environment to best support your child's learning and development while making sure that inclusion is part of the decision making process."

Host: "Placing a child in a more restrictive environment than necessary can limit their opportunities for interaction with peers, hinder their social skill acquisition and access to a broader curriculum. It may also hinder their social development and ability to adapt to diverse situations. Ensuring your child is in the least restrictive setting helps them maximize their potential, ensure they are afforded opportunities as their non-disabled peers and engage more fully in the school community with their peers."

Host: "Remember, the goal of LRE is to provide your child with the right support in the most inclusive setting possible. As parents or guardians, you are key advocates in ensuring your child's education is both effective and equitable. Stay engaged, ask questions, and work closely

with the school team to create the best learning environment for your child. Thank you for watching!"

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