Basic Principles for Inclusion

Student/Teacher Collaboration

- Provide a positive and welcoming learning environment.
- Be aware that students may need time to understand teacher expectations and routines.
- Use activities to get to know students individually.
- Find ways to link curriculum to students’ interests.
- Present lessons in a variety of ways to insure student comprehension.
- Use organizational checklists and assignment notebooks to help with student organization and accountability.
- Model thinking skills and develop “thinking” vocabulary to help students talk about their own thinking strategies.
- Talk about learning styles.
- Have behavior management strategies in place.
- Use visual supports.

Parent/Teacher Communication

- Be proactive: contact parents early in the school year.
- Find ways to communicate with parents.
- Set a goal to contact a certain number of parents each week.
- Contact parents through quarterly postcards.

Special Education/General Education Teacher Collaboration

- Find ways to communicate effectively about your students
- Be aware of each other’s workloads and time constraints.
- Tips on ways teachers can work effectively: http://ericec.org/faq/regsped.htm

(Winebrenner 1996, p. 54)