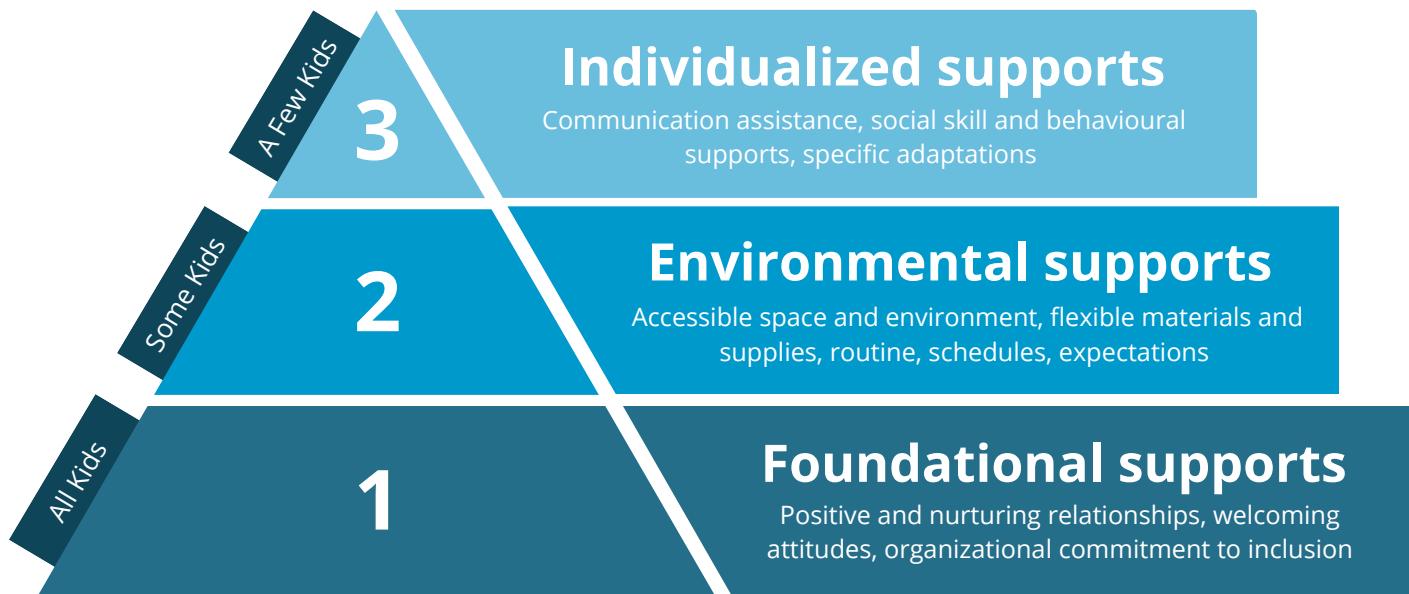


Inclusive Practices

Inclusive Pyramid



When working to make your program more inclusive, it is important to take a bottom up approach. Investing energy into the first two levels of the Inclusive Pyramid can reduce the time and amount of individualized supports that any particular child will need.

1. Foundational Supports

Positive relationships - with families, participants and other leaders - are critical. All children, regardless of ability, need to feel valued and accepted. The organization and its leaders should demonstrate that all children are welcome.

2. Environmental Supports

Setting up a program environment and structure that automatically meets the needs of as many children as possible means leaders spend less time trying to make adjustments on the fly. Many environmental support strategies and approaches benefit children without identified disabilities as well - inclusive practices will not diminish anyone's experiences while non-inclusive practices can.

3. Individualized Supports

Having already addressed many of the factors that may make it harder for children with disabilities to participate, it becomes more realistic for leaders to be able to meet the higher support needs of particular individuals. A strong understanding of the child's personality, rather than a focus on their disability, makes it possible to find creative solutions and make specific activity adaptions.