7 key Features of Quality Inclusion

1. Intentional, Sufficient, and Supported Interactions between Peers with and without Disabilities
   - Demonstrate higher levels of social competence
   - Exhibit better communication skills
   - Learn new skills through imitation

2. Specialized, Individualized Supports
   (Because placement in a general ed classroom alone isn’t enough!)
   - Assess each child’s functional needs
   - Individualize supports to help the child participate fully
   - Be systematic—plan what, how, and when to embed meaningful instructional opportunities

3. Family Involvement
   High-quality inclusive schools intentionally encourage family involvement, engagement, and participation.

4. Inclusive, Interdisciplinary Services and Collaborative Teaming
   - Coordinate all the different supports and services students receive
   - Provide regular opportunities for teams and families to meet and collaborate
   - Establish shared goals and instructional plans

5. A Focus on Critical Sociological Outcomes
   - Positive, meaningful social relationships
   - Independent participation in classrooms and communities
   - A sense of belonging

6. Effective, Ongoing Administrative Supports
   - Technical assistance to help administrators and practitioners learn best practices
   - Policies and infrastructure that supports use of evidence-based practice
   - Ongoing professional development and coaching

7. Ongoing Program Evaluation
   Evaluation efforts should be:
   - Sustainable
   - Linked directly to the program philosophy, goals, and curricula
   - Informed by input from families and practitioners

Adapted from The Preschool Inclusion Toolbox: How to Build and Lead a High-Quality Program, by Erin E. Barton, Ph.D., BCBA-D, & Barbara J. Smith, Ph.D., with invited contributors.
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