

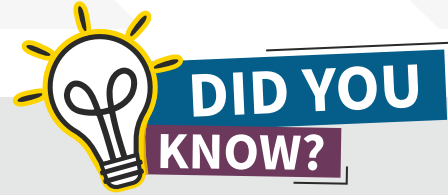


# Building Inclusive Communities:

## How Connection, Belonging, and Support Help Children with Disabilities Thrive

Inclusive communities help children with disabilities feel connected, valued, and supported. When schools, families, and community organizations work together, children have more opportunities to learn, participate, build friendships, and thrive.

**Inclusive communities benefit everyone.**



- 1 in 4 adults in the U.S. lives with a disability.
- In 2024, 22.7% of people with disabilities were employed versus, 65.5% of people without disabilities.



### Recreation and Social Connection

Participation in recreation, clubs, camps, and community activities helps children build friendships, confidence, independence, and a sense of belonging.

Adaptive Sports

Summer Camps

After-School Programs

Community Events

Peer Friendships

#### Resources

- [Utah Parent Center: Summer Resource Guide](#)
- [Salt Lake County Adaptive Recreation](#)
- [United Angels Foundation](#)



### Transition and Future Planning

Planning for adulthood helps students build skills for independence, education, employment, and community involvement after high school.

College and Career

Independent Living Skills

Employment Support

Self-Advocacy

Postsecondary Resources

#### Resources | Postsecondary Planning

- [Utah Transition Elevated](#)
- [Successful Transitions for Youth with Disabilities Guide and Workbook](#)
- [CHOICES: A Comprehensive Guide for Families](#)
- [Utah Parent Center: Birth through Adulthood Planning](#)

## Resources | Employment Resources

- [Utah Parent Center's Employment](#)
- [Vocational Rehabilitation](#)
- [Utah Center for Assistive Technology](#)



## Family and Community Support

Families and caregivers benefit from support networks, advocacy organizations, and inclusive faith and community programs that help strengthen connection and understanding.

Parent  
Support

Advocacy  
Groups

Faith  
Communities

Educational  
Workshops

Community  
Partnerships

### Resources

- [Best Buddies Utah](#)
- [Utah Developmental Disabilities Council](#)
- [Utah Parent Center: Disabilities and Faith](#)
- [Vanderbilt Kennedy Center: Religion and Spirituality Resource](#)
- [Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints: Disabilities](#)

Produced by the **Utah PTA Special Needs Committee** in collaboration with:

- » [Legislative Coalition for People with Disabilities](#)
- » [Learning Disability Association of Utah](#)
- » [Utah Parent Center](#)
- » [United Angels Foundation](#)
- » [Epilepsy Foundation](#)
- » [Decoding Dyslexia Utah](#)
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Scan the QR code or visit the [Utah PTA Special Needs Resource](#) page to explore helpful support materials.

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