

## Why I Am in Your Class

### *My learning might include...*

- interacting with a wider circle of peers.
- participating in classroom activities (with whatever level of support is required).
- engaging with you and classmates.
- coping with new settings and new people.
- practicing my skills in natural settings.
- making choices in a variety of environments.
- accessing resources in the school and community.
- using different methods to communicate my wants and needs.

### *Your role as my classroom teacher...*

You can provide opportunities for me to learn what I need to learn. The resource teacher helps to develop my educational program. The Educational Assistant is there to help me, and others in the class as needed.

- My learning goals are very different from the prescribed curriculum and designed to meet my specific learning needs.
- It is not your role to design the program or prepare all of the materials. You will not be asked to fill out a report card mark for me.

### **Here's how you can help me...**

#### **1. *Take time to get to know me.***

- Talk to me and learn about how I can respond.
- Talk to me about things you know I'll be interested in. (A list of my interests or motivators is included with the material in this booklet.)

#### **2. *Remember that I do not communicate in a traditional way.***

- A copy of my "Personal Dictionary" is included in this booklet. (This describes ways that I communicate my wants and needs, what these mean, and ways for you to consistently respond so that I know you understand me.)

#### **3. *Peers are great!***

- Peers are the greatest teachers! I learn simply by being around them. (You can use other students to model, prompt, assist, reinforce, and sit beside me).

#### **4. *The importance of reinforcement cannot be overemphasized.***

- I enjoy greetings, interacting with others, and hearing that I'm doing a great job!

#### **5. *Keep me actively participating.***

- I like to participate in meaningful routines in the classroom so I can practice my own skills with others.