

# Inclusive education in a pandemic

Kathryn Underwood,  
Professor  
School of Early Childhood  
Studies, Toronto, Canada



# What is an inclusive education and care experience?

Recognition and valuing of differences

leading to...

- Respect and Trust
- Social participation
- Learning and development

# Pre-existing barriers going into the pandemic

- Families do a lot the work to gain access to support services.
- Families have different needs in terms of care and communication
- Our system has narrow definitions of “need” and standardized responses to “needs”

# Ableism and disablism evident during the pandemic

- Concerns about poverty for families and graduates
- Paternalistic identification of risk and vulnerability
- The need for strong social and education institutions to ameliorate inequality

# Exclusion emerging from the pandemic

- Physical environment
- Temporal environment
- Procedural environment
- Relational environment



Thank you