



• **BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY: ONE FRIEND AT A TIME**

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**OBJECTIVES**

- Participants will discuss one way they can implement a program that facilitates inclusivity within their community.
- Participants will explore a program that connect neurotypical students with children with autism through play.
- Participants will associate the implications to OT practice.
- Participants will identify the results of the pilot study.

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**Introduction**

- Ann P. Grady (1995)
- 1994 Eleanor Clarke Slagle Lecture
- "One of the challenges we often face is resolution of the conflict we have over the need for persons with disabilities to prove themselves capable before they are included in typical communities of their choice rather than creating opportunities for them to develop their capacities in their community with appropriate supports"



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**LITERATURE REVIEW ACCEPTANCE**

- Nikolaraisi et al. (2005)
  - N=196 neurotypical Kinders
  - Intervention: Exposure to children with disabilities
  - Results: Improved acceptance as measured on Acceptance scale for Kindergarteners
- Hurst et al. (2012)
  - N=231 neurotypical 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> graders
  - Intervention: disability-simulation program
  - Results: Improved acceptance as measured on the Adapted Acceptance Scale

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**LITERATURE REVIEW**

- Kent et al (2021)
  - N=71 6-12 year old children with autism
  - Intervention: 10 week program with teacher mentoring, parent mentoring, and sibling (peer) mentoring of play
  - Results: Improved play skills post intervention
- Silton and Fogel (2012)
  - N=147 neurotypical 4-6<sup>th</sup> graders
  - Intervention: video (description, explanation, peer strategies, and strength)
  - Result: SAQ and ACL- improved acceptance towards children with autism

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**OVERVIEW OF PILOT STUDY**

- Design: Non-randomized, experimental pilot program
- Participants
  - Twelve neurotypical 5<sup>th</sup> graders students
- Intervention
  - 7 week program, 2 days a week after school for 45 minutes to 1 hour
  - Lessons included book reading, videos, story-based discussions, development of play plan, reflection, guest speakers, presentation to entire 5th grade class



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## Results

Shared Activity Questionnaire (SAQ)  
Adjective Checklist (ACL)

Variable	M	SD	Min	Max	p
Pre ACL Fav	37.5	9.79	16.00	53.00	
Post ACL Fav	43.67	5.50	35.00	53.00	.095
Pre ACL Unfav	57.67	6.98	51.00	72.00	
Post ACL Unfav	53.50	2.24	49.00	57.00	.048*

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## TEAM


BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY




Dr. Vicky Vu  
Occupational Therapist



Melinda Vittetow  
Preschool Teacher



Dr. Todd Schmidt  
Principal



Aston Vu  
Student

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**THANK YOU**

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