Are you…

- Prepared to care for young children who have special needs?
- Effective in identifying children with delays and different needs/abilities?
- Prepared to work collaboratively with parents, therapists and health care professionals to meet the needs of young children?
- Familiar with the latest strategies to meet the needs of young children with different abilities?
- Interested in learning how to successfully meet the needs of children with and without different needs/abilities in the same setting?

Child care providers are increasingly challenged to broaden their knowledge of developmental approaches in early childhood curriculum and services. The inclusion of children with different needs/abilities requires additional knowledge and skills when you consider the need for specialized knowledge of different needs/abilities and the special challenges within the curriculum. In addition, collaboration with other staff members and professionals outside of the child care center as well as the use of current best practices in order to lay a firm foundation for language, motor, social, cognitive, and self-help development for young children with different needs and their typically developing peers is essential.

Child care providers are often anxious when they are first asked to include a child with different needs/abilities in their home or center-based program. Children with different needs can successfully participate in community home or child care settings if the child care staff has appropriate training, including specific information and adequate support during the first four to six weeks of service.

The ABC Special Needs Program serves children with different needs/abilities and offers several types of assistance to child care providers, educators, families, service providers, and professionals working with the family:

- **Consultation** is provided in the child's care environment to discuss ways to help a specific child who has a different need/ability or developmental delay or who is having problems—whether or not the child is on the ABC Special Needs Voucher System.

- **Technical Assistance** is provided in the child's care facility to include physical access to facilities, materials, specialized equipment, and instructional methods.

- **Different Needs Information (training)** is directly related to a child who is currently being served or to a child who will soon be attending the center. A Disability Monograph Series has been developed that includes disability, disability-related, and infant/toddler topics.

The ABC Special Needs Program

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