

## Light Up the Future -- Integrated Learning Promoted in Preschool Special Education Classes

(By Division of Preschool Education)



In order to expand young children's access to special education services, improve educational opportunities and learning quality, and provide equal educational opportunities for children with physical and mental disabilities, the K-12 Education Administration of the Ministry of Education subsidizes local governments to provide additional funding for preschool special

education classes. The funding contributes to meeting children's individual needs, providing family support, and enhancing overall special education services. In addition, in order to provide unrestrictive environments for children in special education classes, the K-12 Education Administration is continuing to lead the pilot scheme of the Integration Program for Self-Contained Special Education Classes.

To help integrate education in self-contained special education classes and refine teachers' professional expertise, the abovementioned program will assist schools with behavioral support and curriculum and environmental adjustment under the direct guidance of expert scholars. The program is designed to increase joint learning opportunities between students in special education classes and students in general classes.

In New Taipei City, for example, partial or full integration programs for self-contained preschool special education classes are promoted citywide. Special education and general

education teachers collaborate to design many kinds of integrated curriculum models and implementation methods to help children with special needs and their peers grow together through interaction and improve learning quality, whether it be through readiness preparation, new educational resources, or inclusive play equipment. The government plans the implementation of the integrated curriculum and a teaching observation program, which provides opportunities for early childhood educators to observe and learn from each other, enhancing teachers' expertise in integrated education.

The K-12 Education Administration explained that self-contained preschool special education classes are set up in public schools. These schools are well-equipped and have quality learning environments, providing more integrated learning opportunities for children, who will be able to use the whole campus as a place to learn. This will allow preschool children with special needs to receive proper education and care, as well as enhance preschool special education services as a whole.