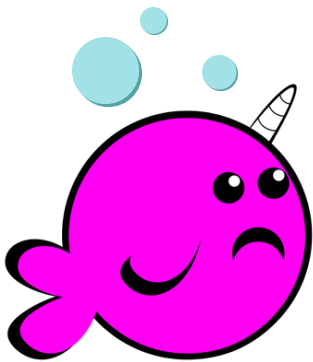
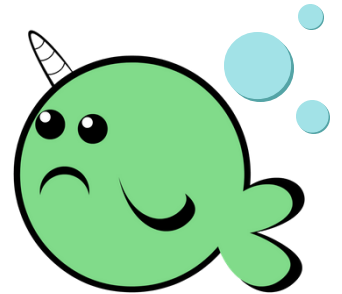


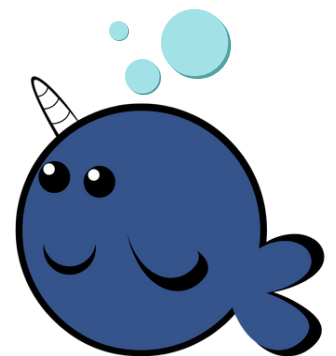
WHAT IS AUTHENTIC INCLUSION?

I'm in a segregated classroom. I spend the whole day in a special education class and I don't get to learn the same things as other kids my age. We work on "social skills", compliance and trying to make me fit in better with others instead of finding supports that would help me succeed.



I'm in a general education class and my teachers call it "mainstreaming". Mainstreaming means that I have to work very hard to act a certain way and I must earn the right to be in a classroom with my friends. I spend a lot of energy pretending to be like everybody else and I get no supports or accommodations. I am taken out of classes often to get "services", which means I miss valuable classroom time every day.

I am in an inclusive school! My class is set up to be sensory friendly and accessible. I am able to be in the same class as everybody else and I never have to leave to get "services". My teacher values all learning styles and works with a special education teacher, speech and occupational therapists to support me. Lessons are taught so that everyone can participate in a way that is meaningful to them and the environment is adapted to fit our needs!



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