

Segregation — vs — Community

In segregated programs
people are known by what is perceived to be wrong: by their medical condition or disability label

In community - people are known by name

In segregated programs
people are incomplete, broken and need to be changed or "fixed"
In community - people are as they are, with opportunities to follow their own dreams

In segregated programs
relationships are unequal;
people do things "for" others and do not look for any contribution in return
In community
relationships are reciprocal, give and take; and the diverse gifts of many people are recognized

In segregated programs
people are separated into groups and often placed with "their own kind"
In community
people are accepted for who they are, and are viewed as part of a diverse society

In segregated programs
problems are solved by consulting authorities, policies and procedures
In community
people seek answers from their own experiences and the wisdom of others

In segregated programs
there is no room to acknowledge mistakes and uncertainty; information is communicated in
professional jargon that distances individuals from their actions

In community
people can make honest efforts and acknowledge honest mistakes and fears

In segregated programs
all problems have a rational solution

In community
there is room for confusion, and mystery, and recognition that some things are beyond human control

In segregated programs people are called special needs children, clients, consumers or part of a caseload

In community people are called children, family, friend, co-worker, or neighbor

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