

“Hi there, I hope you have gone through the RTE pack and enjoyed seeing the videos.

I invite you to use this document as a reference for **interventions, tips and strategies** which we have developed over the years to make a RTE program with a **360 approach**, involving all stakeholders, with the **key purpose of addressing the child’s need**. The effort of **inclusion** becomes empowered manifold, when every teacher, student and parent **celebrate the diversity** in the classroom and contributes in meaningful ways to make a difference.

Acceptance of a child under RTE and immersion in the regular schooling system is just the first step of inclusion. The interventions described below are simple to execute, with their frequencies mentioned. **Feel free to innovate, translate and implement the way you want**. And I would love to know how you have done it. Do share your experience”.

😊 **Priyanka Prasad**

INTERVENTIONS & STRATEGIES DEVELOPED UNDER THE RTE PROGRAM:

I. The Child

1. **Home Visits (twice a year):** This is where teachers visit every child’s home to know the child better and get an insight into their background. The objective of the first home visit is to remove assumptions and to understand the home environment of the child. The second home visit is need based and explores if the family and the child are comfortable with the school and if any concerns need to be addressed.
2. **One-on-one Sessions (twice a week):** The purpose here is to address the cognitive, social and emotional needs of the child. These sessions involve by one on one interaction between the teacher and the students.
3. **Summer school ‘Teach to Reach Summer Program’ (Once a year):** To bridge the gap and reinforce learning, sessions are conducted during summer break. This is a volunteer based program started by ‘The Riverside School’ to ensure academic rigor and continuity in the learning process for students during their summer vacations. It is also actioned with the intention to promote regular practice and better retention of concepts.

4. **World is my school (fortnightly exposure):** This is a shared social experience that provides opportunity for the students to experience and explore their surroundings which enables them to deepen their learning! This is a volunteer based program that provides exposure to students who may not get these opportunities at the home front. Examples such as educational and fun visits to Museums, heritage walks, National Institute of Design, visit to aquarium etc.
5. **After school program (three times a week):** This allows the students varied opportunities to develop their skills. The aim here is to provide a wide range of touch-points for children, such as martial arts, theatre and dance, robotics etc. This program is open to all children!

II. The Parent

1. **'Koshish' an adult literacy and support program** program, was started in the year 2011 at Riverside School for the RTE parents with the idea that their literacy, awareness and empowerment (especially mothers) is crucial for development of the child. And this is key in bridging the gap between home and school.

This is done through various initiatives related such as – **Academic support** via Language and Math sessions (**twice a week**). Computer sessions, **Well Being and awareness workshops (need based)** for parents, Entrepreneurial support (**need based**).

Regular parent updates on the progress of the child is also an important way to keep parents in loop and also for them to know what all they need to do additionally.

III. Riverside Community and the larger Ecosystem

1. **Team Meetings (Once a month):** Regular teacher meetings are conducted for raising awareness and staying updated about the act. The growth and progress of the child are discussed and planning is done for the following month
2. **Meeting the experts (need based):** Teacher team meets lawyers or other experts to get more clarity on the law or changes in the act.
3. **Parent and student Volunteers:** Parents, professionals and children (anyone above 15 years of age) from Riverside or other organisations are welcomed as volunteers for any of the programs like the "World is my school", 'Summer School', 'After School program' etc.
4. **Buddy involvement:** A great strategy is to get children from older grades to buddy with the younger students and help them with academics, rigour or just spend time with them. This becomes a great way to involve students in the program.

All of the above, ensures that the entire community within and outside school is involved to make it an inclusive and richer program for all.

SOME IMPORTANT TIPS

- It is important to stay vigilant, keep oneself updated and read up on any changes or amendment in the law.
- Meeting up with the District education officer from time to time is also helpful in keeping oneself updated.
- Meeting various stakeholders like experts, lawyers or other schools is a great way to get a fresh perspective or insight on the best practices, clarify any issues, and come up with better solutions to implement the program smoothly.