The Alameda County ECE Planning Council’s Statement on Inclusive Child Care: Inclusion is more than the presence of children with disabilities or other special needs in early childhood programs; it is the full and active participation of all children and their families, whether typically developing or with disabilities or other special needs in community activities, services, and programs. Support, accommodations, or modifications, when needed, are provided appropriately to ensure full, active participation for all children. One indicator of a high quality early childhood program is successful inclusion of children with special needs.

http://www.acgov.org/ece/

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal, civil rights law passed in 1990 that provides equal access to public accommodations for individuals with disabilities. The Pacific ADA Center ©2019 notes, a few elements such as entrances, parking spaces and drinking fountains can be made accessible in order for a facility to be deemed “readily accessible.”
Early childhood programs such as family childcare homes and childcare centers have a responsibility to comply with the ADA to the maximum extent feasible. Childcare providers can comply with physical access requirements through alterations the 2010 ADA Federal Standards provide the following examples, restriping a parking lot, moving walls, moving a fixed ATM to another location, installing a new sales counter or display shelves, changing a doorway entrance, replacing fixtures, flooring or carpeting. Normal maintenance, such as reroofing, painting, or wallpapering, is not an alteration.

Simple inclusive facilities alterations and minor modifications include:
- Installing seamless flooring
- Widening door frames
- Adding ramps for wheelchair/power driven mobility device
- Installing noise dampening solutions to walls and ceilings
- Purchasing signage with braille inlay
- Lowering counter tops and fixtures
- Lowering drinking fountains
- Adding accessible outdoor play structures
- Providing a quiet sensory zone
- Purchasing sensory sensitive lighting
- Limiting the use of bells, buzzers, and flashing lights
Critical steps to consider when designing or reconfiguring an inclusive early learning environment

Louis Torelli and Spaces for Children ©2019 list eight distinct steps in the design phase for creating an inclusive childcare setting.

The steps include:
1. Feasibility Study
2. Programming
3. Schematic Design
4. Design Development
5. Construction Documentation
6. Bidding and Negotiation
7. Construction Administration
8. Post-Occupancy Training

Simple inclusive facilities alterations and minor modifications include:
- Installing seamless flooring
- Widening door frames
- Adding ramps for wheelchair/power driven mobility device
- Installing noise dampening solutions to walls and ceilings
- Purchasing signage with braille inlay
- Lowering counter tops and fixtures
- Lowering drinking fountains
- Adding accessible outdoor play structures
- Providing a quiet sensory zone
- Purchasing sensory sensitive lighting
- Limiting the use of bells, buzzers, and flashing lights
ECE INCLUSIVE FACILITIES MODIFICATIONS
CONTRACTORS AND ARCHITECTS LISTING

LIST CRITERIA:

- THE CRITERIA FOR THIS LIST INCLUDED CONTRACTORS THAT SERVICE FACILITIES THAT PROVIDE CHILD CARE THE GREATER ALAMEDA COUNTY AREA

- ARCHITECTURAL FIRMS THAT HAVE SOME DESIGN EXPERIENCE WITH CHILD CARE SPACES APPLYING UNIVERSAL DESIGN CONCEPTS.

- AT A MINIMUM, CONTRACTORS SHOULD BE LICENSED, BONDED AND INSURED.

- LICENSES CAN BE VERIFIED BY VISITING: https://www2.cslb.ca.gov/onlineservices/checklicenseII/checklicense.aspx

- FOR SUPPORT WITH VENDOR SELECTION CONTACT: DENISE TURNER, MPA DENISE.TURNER@ACGOV.ORG ACGOV.ORG/ECE

ALAMEDA COUNTY, GENERAL SERVICES AGENCY (GSA)