



# Severe Disabilities

## what to teach

COURSE  
enhancement  
MODULE

### Grade-Aligned English Language Arts

#### Objectives

The participants will be able to-

1. Teach comprehension
2. Adapt lessons from Common Core State Standards
3. Plan writing instruction

#### Background Readings

Browder, D.M. & Spooner, F. (Eds.), (2014). *More language arts, math, & science for students with severe disabilities*. Baltimore, MD: Paul H. Brookes Publishing Company.

Browder, D. M., Trela, K., & Jimenez, B. A. (2007). Training teachers to follow a task analysis to engage middle school students with moderate and severe developmental disabilities in grade-appropriate literature. *Focus on Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities, 22*, 206-219.

Pennington, R. C., & Delano, M. E. (2012). Writing instruction for students with autism spectrum disorders: A review of literature. *Focus on Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities, 27*(3), 158-167.

Riesen, T., McDonnell, J., Johnson, J. W., Polychronis, S., & Jameson, M. (2003). A comparison of constant time delay and simultaneous prompting within embedded instruction in general education classes with students with moderate to severe disabilities. *Journal of Behavioral Education, 12*, 241-259.

Shurr, J., & Taber-Doughty, T. (2012). Increasing comprehension for middle school students with moderate intellectual disability on age-appropriate texts. *Education and Training in Autism and Developmental Disabilities, 47*(3), 359-372.

Zakas, T., Browder, D. M., Ahlgrim-Delzell, L., & Heafner, T. (In press). Teaching social studies content to students with autism using a graphic organizer intervention. *Research in Autism Spectrum Disorders*.

## Materials for Participants

On line access to show lesson plan.

PowerPoint on Grade-aligned ELA and Social Studies. (Not provided; see suggested readings for resources to develop the PowerPoint.)

Sample text from a social studies textbook. Or you can find social studies content on websites like [www.mcgrawhillnetworks.com](http://www.mcgrawhillnetworks.com)

A copy of a general education language arts lesson plan. There are many free ones on like on sites like [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org). or [www.sharemylesson.com](http://www.sharemylesson.com).

## Activities

Attention Grabber: Using a language arts lesson plan for middle school or one you have procured in advance, have the students brainstorm what barriers a students with moderate/severe disabilities would face in trying to learn this content. Also show or provide a high school social studies lesson. Point out the Common Core State Standard shown on the plan or discuss what standard might apply.

Powerpoint: Present the PowerPoint you develop on grade-aligned ELA.

Universal Design: Discuss how to make the resources universally designed. One option is to work with electronic text. Use this website to show a resource for adapting materials through CAST Bookbuilder. <http://bookbuilder.cast.org/>

Small Group Planning. Have participants work in small group to transform one of the lessons shown at the beginning of the session into a universally designed lesson. On a newsprint, they can list multiple means for representation (e.g., how text will be presented), engagement of all students, and responding (how students with moderate/severe disabilities will show what they know). Then have them write an objective for what a student with severe disabilities will learn in this lesson.