



Severe Disabilities

how to teach

COURSE
enhancement
MODULE

Learning Needs and Inclusion Planning

Objectives

The participant will be able to-

1. Identify the learning needs of students with severe disabilities
2. Describe the benefits of inclusion
3. Plan universal design of instruction
4. Identify ways to promote home-school collaboration
5. Describe what makes an educational team effective

Background Readings

Collins, B. (2007). Working with person with significant cognitive disabilities: Educational issues and challenges. In B. Collins, *Moderate and severe disabilities*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson.

Coyne, P., Pisha, B., Dalton, B., Zeph, L. A., & Smith, N. C. (2012). Literacy by design: A universal design for learning approach for students with significant intellectual disabilities. *Remedial and Special Education, 33*(3), 162–172.

Jorgensen, C.M., McSheehan, M., & Sonnenmeier, R.M. (2010). *The Beyond Access Model*. Baltimore, Md: Paul H. Brookes.

Kleinert, H.L., Browder, D.M., & Towles-Reeves, E.A. (2009). Models of cognition for students with significant cognitive disabilities: implications for assessment. *Review of Educational Research, 79*, 301-326.

Westling, D., & Fox, L. (2004). *Teaching students with severe disabilities*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson. (See Chapter 1 on Students with Severe Disabilities)

Materials for Participants

Newsprint for students to plan a day for a student with severe disabilities in general education. Have a sample general education teacher's weekly lesson plans to consider and some IEP objectives to embed. For lesson plans, see the website www.k12reader.com/resource/lesson-plan-templates.

PowerPoint on Learning Needs and Inclusion (not provided). Use the suggested readings to develop a PowerPoint on learning needs and inclusion.

Activities

Icebreaker: Begin the three days together by having participants describe their most recent experience with someone with disabilities; who it was and what they did together. This provides a nice context to begin talking about the learning needs of students with moderate and severe disabilities.

Watch a video about a student with severe disabilities and discuss learning needs. Here is one from Project Success that may be useful <http://vimeo.com/46316872>

Present the ppt: Learning Needs and Inclusive Planning that you developed. Be sure to pause for interactions during the presentation. For example, ask the participants for examples of the learning needs.

Inclusion activity. Have students work in teams to plan a day for the student with severe disabilities viewed in video when given a typical elementary schedule in general education. As each team presents, discuss how they considered some of the learning needs of this population in planning the day.