

Integration of the child with a disability into the classroom



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What are the benefits?

Benefits for the disabled student

- Teaches student self reliance
- Helps student master new skills
- Helps the student strive for greater achievement
- Student can learn more about themselves
- Student can learn new coping skills
- Student feels an active part of community

Benefits for peers

- Peers learn to accept others with differences
- Peers learn that disabled children just like themselves can do some things better than others.
- Peers have the opportunity to make friends with many different individuals
- Peers have opportunity to learn and grow by interacting with friends who are disabled.

Benefits for Teachers

- Teachers have a chance to make a significant impact on a disabled child.
- Teachers have an opportunity to be creative in the techniques they develop to assist a child with special needs
- Teachers have an opportunity to broaden both their teaching and personal experience

Benefits for Parents

- Parents feel less isolated, and have less shame
- Parents can learn new ways to help their child
- Parents are helped to think about their disabled child more realistically
- Parents feel better about their children and themselves.

How to design a classroom to meet the needs of a special needs child

- Be a role model. How you interact with a disabled child will influence the other children
- Give lessons frequently about acceptance, and kindness to all
- Positively reinforce peers who are especially kind to the disabled child. This encourages and motivates the other children in the classroom

How to design a classroom to meet the needs of a special needs child

- Use lots of praise and encouragement
- Be honest with your feedback
- Place disabled child in front of classroom
- Ensure the child is sitting comfortably
- Make the room accessible, place often used items in easy arms reach
- Have a place to store wheelchair in the classroom

Use a Buddy System

- Children helping children
- Pair the disabled child up with a “special friend” who can collect materials or books, turn in work, helping the child to move around, and helping with tasks.
- Praise and reinforce the help that the special friend is providing

Group Work

- Children feel more acceptance when they work in a group. Children are then able to provide help for the disabled child
- Group work allows the disabled child to participate more fully in the activity

Modify lessons

- Break down skills into sub-skills. Have disabled child do only one sub skill and not the whole skill.
- Sequence activities from simple to complex.
- Use physical contact and guidance. Guide the hand to help with arm or hand control

Modifications for writing skills

- Use a pencil with a built up handle
- Tape paper to the desk so it won't fly away
- Use a wooden or cardboard table on child's wheelchair to make a desk for them to write on
- Guide their hand as needed

How to develop teamwork between Teachers and Parents

- Invite parents to observe and participate in the classroom
- Invite parents to communicate their fears and concerns
- Use a daily diary to allow written communication between the teacher and parent.

Daily Diary example

- Monday- Teacher writes- Carlos was able to clap his hands to the song Happy Birthday that we sang. Have him practice at home
- Tuesday- Parent writes Carlos liked singing Happy birthday song and clapping with our family last night. Will continue with practice.

How to develop teamwork between Teachers and Parents

- Build on child's strengths and work on the child's weaknesses. Ex. Child can draw simple lines, have them work on shapes like circles, triangles instead of harder activity of his/her name.
- Focus on what the child currently can do instead of what they can't

How to develop teamwork between Teachers and Parents

- Point out to parents what is going well
- Be honest with your reassurance
- Help parents find the answers by referral
- Don't be afraid to answer parents with "I don't know" when they ask when a child will walk or talk

Common Parent worries

- My child won't fit in
- My child won't be accepted or liked by other children
- My child won't make progress

Remember...

- All children with disabilities have the same needs as all children for
- LOVE
- ACCEPTANCE
- EXPLORATION
- SENSE OF COMPETENCE

COMMUNITY
AGENCY FOR THE
REHABILITATION AND
EDUCATION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
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