

Teaching Diverse Learners

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Objectives

Increase understanding of universal design in instruction and learning
Increase understanding of accommodations and modifications
Increase knowledge of tools and strategies

Students with disabilities alongside peers without disabilities

Teachers require additional skills to accommodate language barriers and cultural differences, as well as divergent behavioral and learning styles.

Teachers need more skill in promoting social acceptance of disabled students.

Teachers need more effective procedures to enhance academic programs

Universal access

Using technology tools and strategies to provide access to critical curriculum and information resources in a variety of formats to meet the learning needs of students with a broad range of abilities.

Accommodation

Alteration of presentation

Alteration of response

Modification

Changes in learning expectations

Instructional level

Content

Performance criteria

Barriers

English as a second language

Reading problems

Physical problems

Problems finding words to write

Attention and focus problems

Needs

To be empowered

To improve self esteem

Flexible text

To read at their own pace

Strategies to help retain information

More than one channel of input: auditory, visual, kinesthetic

Multisensory reading and writing experiences

Universal Designed Lessons & Screen /text reader technology for students with:

Visual impairments

Hearing impairments

Physical disabilities

Learning disabilities

English, second language

Attention deficit

The Computer as a Valuable Tool

When have appropriate software it provides a student with:

An individual, non-judgmental learning environment

Immediate feedback

Opportunity to work at own pace, whether it is faster or slower

Repetitions if needed

An opportunity to focus attention on task

Writing Composition Software

Kidspiration (grades K-5) by Inspiration

Inspiration (Grade 6 through adult) by Inspiration

Stanley's Sticker Stories (Pre-K-2) by Edmark

KidPix Deluxe (K-8) by the Learning Company

Intellipics (K-8) by Intellitools

Hyperstudio (K-8) by Hyperstudio

Word by Microsoft + StyleWriter by Stylewriter USA

Math Drill & Reinforcement Software

Millie's Math House (Pre-K-2) by Edmark

Mighty Math Carnival (K-2) by Riverdeep

Money Town (K-3) by Davidson

Tessellations (3-7) <http://www.coolmath.com/tesspag1.htm>

www.funbrain.com

Intellimathics or Math Pad by Intellitools

Student/process Goals & Objectives

To read learning materials with content for better access to general & special education curriculum

To read e-text scanned to computer or developed on computer

To read and write email messages

To read information on the internet to aid research skills

To read title & menu bars & folders to assist with organization

To increase self advocacy skills with tools to help access text

Teacher/process Goals & Objectives

To explore ways to increase universal design for learning instruction with use of screen readers and e-text

To scan documents into computer to make text accessible

To increase knowledge of text readers and strategies for universal design

To increase knowledge by reviewing resource on screen readers and visiting web sites

To try a screen reader with use of typed text on the computer

Text Reader Software: Free trial

Word Q <http://www.wordq.com>

E-reader <http://www.cast.org>

Wynn <http://www.freedomscientific.com>

Strategies

Tape recorder

Notetaking, recording lectures, assisting students to express themselves for writing activities

NCR or non carbon paper for making a copy of notes

<http://www.shoplet.com/office/db/g1590.html>

Stand alone word processors (Alpha Smart Pro or Dana)

Strategies

Electronic spelling dictionary (talking or non-talking)

Talking textbooks and novels

Electronic organizers for schedules, reminder, lists, etc.

Provide a second set of textbooks for the student to use at home

Strategies

Overhead projector to post outline

Television, VCR and video tapes when used creatively can be good mediums for learning

Know the mode through which the student learns best: visual, auditory, tactile/kinesthetic

Know reading level of student and make sure printed material is at that level

Provide visual and graphic aids when teaching

Encourage the student to use a highlighter to mark important information

Provide study guides and copies of notes

Evaluation Ideas

Use on line quiz providers (Quiz Lab) by Funbrain.com or Quiz Center by Discovery.com)

Use screen reading software with speech synthesizer to provide verbalization of everything on screen

Cooperative Learning

Students from minority backgrounds

Field-sensitive or field dependent

Field dependent learners are sensitive to their social environment, preferring to work in groups rather than alone

They prefer to work cooperatively rather than competitively

To succeed they need:

To interact with new material and put concepts into meaningful contexts through group discussions and projects

The content, objectives and mastery criteria of the lesson identified ahead of time

To know the level of individual versus group accountability

To know if the activity should be designed to reach consensus, generate new ideas or share information