

News Notes

A Newsletter for Teachers of Students with Significant
Cognitive Disabilities
Educational Equity for All



October 2018

Social skills activities for children and teens:

Evidence-based games and exercises

From babies to teens: 17 social skills activities

1. Turn-taking games for babies
2. The name game for toddlers
3. Preschool games that reward attention and self-control
4. Music-making and rhythm games for young children
5. Group games of dramatic, pretend play
6. "Emotion charades" for young children
7. Drills that help kids read facial expressions
8. Checker stack: A game for keeping up a two-way conversation
9. Passing the ball: A game for honing group communication
10. Cooperative board games and decision-making tasks
11. Cooperative construction
12. Community gardening
13. Story-based discussions about emotion
14. Classic charades for older kids and teens
15. Team athletics that feature training in good sportsmanship
 - ❖ Research suggests that team athletics can function as effective social skills activities -- if use the opportunity to we teach kids how to be good sports.
16. Social skills activities for older kids and teens: Playing devil's advocate, and learning how to engage in productive, disciplined debate
17. Party games that encourage perspective-taking and reduce social biases

<https://www.parentingscience.com/social-skills-activities.html>



Giraffe Heroes Project

#StickYourNeckOut

STAN TALL & BEA TALL PROUDLY PRESENT OUR FREE K-2 CURRICULUM

Stanley & Beatrice Tall, twin spokes giraffes for the K-2 Giraffe Heroes Program, proudly announce that the humans at the Giraffe Project have completed the job of updating our classroom-tested curriculum for the very young. Lesson plans, stories, videos, audio tracks, handouts, correlations to standards, links to resources—they're all waiting for K-2 teachers to download.

Free.

We're giving you a story-based, experiential, service-learning, character education program, one that's enchanted children in every state in the US and in English-speaking schools around the world. Nobody does it better than Stan & Bea!

If you're a middle school teacher, the [Giraffe program for young teens](#) is already online.

It's free too.

Because we want all teachers to have this material whether they have funding for classroom materials or not.

It's all yours!

<https://www.giraffe.org/>



Really Good Stuff 
Digital Learning Collection

Designed by Teachers. Loved by Students.

The new Really Good Stuff® Digital Learning Collection has over 150 of the best learning apps mapped to standards all in one easy classroom solution! <https://goo.gl/5HMyku>

EDUCATIONAL
EQUITY FOR ALL
..... Giving kids what they need to succeed.

Tana Donaghy, President, Educational Equity For All
Misstanad@educationaequityforall.org; 909-964-5057
<http://www.educationaequity4all.com/>

FEATURED IDEA OF THE MONTH

The Dynamic Learning Framework for Teachers by Kasey Bell (Whiteboard Animation)



<https://goo.gl/JrJMEA>

Everyone **CAN!**

Essentials for Educators of
SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS

Teacher Fellowships to Attend Mindfulness Workshops

The **Hemera Foundation** provides full fellowships for educators to attend the foundation's workshops focused on mindfulness. The concept of this training is to help educators to be centered and well balanced, and in turn guide their students with special needs to be focused, engaged learners. The Hemera Foundation strives to strengthen teachers and schools that cultivate basic human goodness in individuals and society.

The [Contemplative Fellowship for Educators](#) supports people who currently work full-time in preK or K-12 education, or are enrolled in a Master's degree program in education. There are no deadlines to apply for fellowships, and applicants should follow the links to individual retreat centers for a description of the specific courses and the application process. The Foundation recommends subscribing to its mailing list for updates on different retreat center opportunities.

<https://goo.gl/BnWqyS>



Fund for Teachers supports educators' efforts to develop skills, knowledge and confidence that impact

student achievement. By trusting teachers to design unique fellowships, Fund for Teachers grants validate teachers' professionalism and leadership, as well. Since 2001, Fund for Teachers has invested 30 million in nearly 8,000 teachers, transforming grants into growth for teachers and their students.

Fund for Teachers strengthens instruction by investing in outstanding teachers' self-determined professional growth and development in order to support student success, enrich their own practice, and strengthen their schools and communities. <http://www.fundforteachers.org/>

ALTERNATIVE AND AUGMENTATIVE COMMUNICATION



AbleNet SuperTalker Progressive Communicator

This versatile communicator can be configured in one, two, four, and eight grid formats - eliminating

the need to learn a new device as needs change or abilities grow. Eight levels allow you to record and store as many as 64 messages. <https://www.ablenetinc.com/supertalker-progressive-communicator>

WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

<https://www.naset.org/>

<https://goo.gl/PonMi9>

<https://goo.gl/CkqSsL>



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Whether you earn Alison's Diploma in Educational Psychology, Diploma in Teaching Skills for Educators or take courses in effective communication techniques for teachers, these free, online teaching courses will show you everything you need for learning how to teach. Alison's free, online teaching courses are open for enrollment and ready to get you started learning how to teach today.

<https://goo.gl/md6TZE>

Clutter-Free Classroom by Jodi Durgin



CLASSROOM DECOR TIPS & IDEAS Classroom Decor, Featured, How To Decorate A Classroom On A Budget



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The guide includes FORTY-SEVEN pages of ideas, color photos, and useful printables you can implement in your own classroom without spending a lot of money. In addition to those 47 pages, the book also showcases many of the low-cost, [Classroom Theme and Color Scheme Decor Bundles](#) {each includes 34 products for less than \$0.35 cents each!} that are available from The Clutter-Free Classroom. <https://www.cfclassroom.com/2015/05/how-to-decorate-classroom-on-budget.html>

Don't forget to download your free copy of the [Clutter-Free Classroom Decor Guide](#) and please feel free to pin it and/or share the link with your colleagues.