

News Notes

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



May 2019

Teacher Appreciation Week 2019



Teacher Appreciation Week is celebrated during the first full week of May each year. May 6-10. Also called National Teacher Day, it falls on the Tuesday of Teacher Appreciation Week—May 7, 2019.

<http://tinyw.in/6I5V>



What is Visual Tracking?
Visual problems can surface in many ways. Visual processing challenges present as difficulty in reading, handwriting, sports, navigating a hallway, or many other areas. Sometimes, the issue is a result of visual tracking challenges. Read on to find out exactly what is visual

tracking and what an eye tracking problem looks like in kids, including common visual tracking difficulties that present in the classroom or during academic work. We've shared a few visual tracking tips and soon on the site, we'll share a collection of visual tracking activities, too. <http://tinyw.in/zdNN>

[6 Creative Ways to Improve Visual Tracking Using Recycled Cardboard Tubes](#)
[Visual Tracking Tips and Tools for Treatment](#)
[Visual Tracking Strategies](#)
[Super Simple Visual Tracking Tool](#)



Putting Words in Your

M O U T H

10 MUST-dos that Dignify Students with Disabilities

1. TRULY GET TO KNOW YOUR STUDENTS – including THEIR PERCEIVED STRENGTHS, NEEDS AND FEELINGS
2. PUT YOURSELF IN THEIR SHOES AND GIVE THEM AN OUT
3. GIVE THEM THE SAME RESPECT YOU EXPECT FROM THEM
4. GIVE THEM WORK (and homework) THEY CAN DO.
5. CORRECT THEM DISCREETLY OR IN PRIVATE
6. SEND POSITIVE NOTES HOME
7. INCLUDE STUDENTS IN CONVERSATIONS AND DECISION MAKING ABOUT THEIR EDUCATION
8. MAKE SURE THEY ALWAYS HAVE ACCESS TO THEIR ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY OR AAC (Alternative or Augmentative Communication)
9. SPEAK TO AND ACKNOWLEDGE CHILDREN WITH SEVERE DISABILITIES
10. RELATE TO THEM, INSPIRE THEM and LET THEM KNOW YOU BELIEVE IN THEM

<https://puttingwordsinyourmouth.com/2019/03/10-must-dos-that-dignify-students-with-disabilities.html>



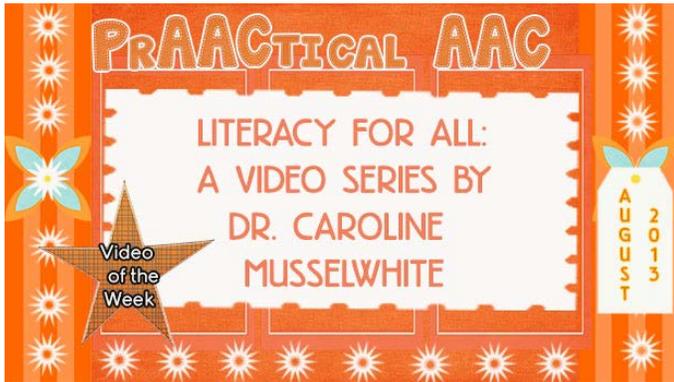
Top 10 Kid's Books to Teach Safety ... <http://tinyw.in/L56e>

Here are 10 of the highest-rated and most loved kid's books that teach a variety of safety lessons.

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

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FEATURED IDEA OF THE MONTH



<http://tinyw.in/uCKR>

California Special Education Grants: 7 Special Education Grants for California.

Special education grants for educating students with special needs with specially designed instruction, as per the No Child Left Behind Act, ADA, 300.39 IDEA, addressing individual differences and needs, including: grants for speech, travel training, vocational education, adaptive physical education, EIS early intervention services, resource rooms, special education teachers, classrooms and technology. <http://tinyw.in/Her2>



What is the purpose of this website?

This website provides guidelines for teaching literacy skills to learners with special needs, especially learners with complex communication needs (CCN) such as:

- Autism spectrum disorders
- Cerebral palsy
- Down syndrome
- Developmental apraxia
- Multiple disabilities

This website provides information on:

- What skills to teach
- How to teach these skills
- Videotaped examples of instruction with learners with special needs

These learners may benefit from augmentative and alternative communication (AAC). They may use many different means to communicate, including

- Speech or speech approximations
- Gestures
- Signs
- Communication boards with pictures
- Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS)
- Electronic speech generating devices (computers)

<http://aacliteracy.psu.edu/>

ALTERNATIVE AND AUGMENTATIVE COMMUNICATION

5 Easy Ways to Implement AAC in Daily Routines

Here is how to do it without needing to change what you are already doing throughout the day: routines.

It is easy to implement AAC in the classroom

1. by offering choices as often as possible
2. using consistent vocabulary and sequences within frequently repeated classroom routines
3. sabotaging the environment during a routine task so that students need to communicate
4. utilize simple scripts within routines so that staff are consistently modeling the same vocabulary and sentence types
5. make sure to model vocabulary used during routines that goes beyond requesting; to include commenting, providing information, asking questions, and other communication functions

<http://kidzlearnlanguage.blogspot.com/2016/10/5-easy-ways-to-implement-aac-in-daily.html>

WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

<http://tinyw.in/uPXh>

<https://goo.gl/IKcvnD>

<https://goo.gl/uIpvMo>

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Continuing Education Associates (CEA) provides high quality accredited online courses and professional development topics that are relevant and convenient for teachers. They are taught by expert instructors covering content areas pertinent to today's K-12 schools. Topic areas such as; Classroom Management, Instructional Strategies, Life Skills, Social Science, Special Education, and Technology, are comprised of courses that are designed to help individuals hone their teaching skills and methods while they pursue professional development plans and accomplish professional development goals.

<http://continuingeducationassociates.publishpath.com/special-education-and-needs>

Did you know...?

Research shows that students achieve more in small and large groups than with 1-1 instruction. Benefits include students learning incidentally from other students, opportunities for students to teach others, and students learning from peer role models.