News Notes

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

May 2016

"One looks back with appreciation to the brilliant teachers, but with gratitude to those who touched our human feelings. The curriculum is so much necessary raw material, but warmth is the vital element for the growing plant and for the soul of the child."
Carl Jung

Exceptional Lives: Multiple Disabilities

Strategies for the classroom:

- Appropriate classroom arrangement can help make the student more comfortable and allows for a better flow from one activity to the next.
- Computer software- games and activities allow for stimulation in exciting ways. Games and activities can usually be played at the student's specific academic levels.
- Assistive technology (computers, medi-talkers…) can be helpful when it comes to communication. Students will be able to share their understanding of topics as well as communicate their wants and needs.
- Group work/activities will allow students to work on social situations and interactions.
- Peer tutoring allows for more one on one work at a student level which encourages peer relationships. This can be beneficial not only for the student with needs, but also the student without multiple disability needs.
- Social interaction helps create a more cohesive classroom environment.
- Large interactive displays will allow easier interaction to participate in classroom activities.

- Picture prompts can share specific directions in a simple and complete way.

https://sites.google.com/site/todayssped/idea/idea-categories/multiple-disabilities

Teaching Children with Special Needs
8 Essentials for Teaching Reading and Spelling to Children with Special Needs

The following list illustrates the various special needs children can have, as well as the eight essential elements that help these children learn to read and spell without confusion and frustration.

1. Direct Instruction
2. Incremental Lessons
3. Multisensory Activities
4. Phonogram Instruction
5. Reading and Spelling Rules
6. Continual Review
7. Fluency Practice and Dictation Exercises
8. Easy-to-Follow Lessons

http://www.allaboutlearningpress.com/teaching-children-with-special-needs

Teaching Math to Students with Disabilities: What We've Learned in 10 Years
Podcast: Play in new window | Download (Duration: 17:48 — 24.4MB)
https://tash.org/blog/2016/02/13/teaching-math-to-students-with-disabilities-what-weve-learned-in-10-years/

Tana Donaghy, President, Educational Equity For All
Misstanad@educationaequityforall.org; 909-964-5057
http://www.educationalequity4all.com/

Make Stress Fidgets - $1 pool noodle + 1 serrated knife + 2 minutes = 52 stress fidgets for the upcoming school year.

Ocean, Zoo, Big May Freebie

http://www.filefolderheaven.com/

Lyrics2learn is a brain-based, on-line reading program created by Jeremy Spartz. Music is used to engage students with text and help them memorize information quickly. As kids retain more and more information due to the repetition, rhythm and rhyme, question levels increase (aligned with the Common Core Depth of Knowledge levels (D.O.K). Each center or min-lesson begins with literal comprehension on day 1, and ends with open ended constructed response. Every story uses this methodology. The more kids know, the more they'll show.

http://www.lyrics2learn.com/how_to_use.html

ALTERNATIVE AND AUGMENTATIVE COMMUNICATION

Augmentative and Alternative Communication is the formal title for non-speech communication. In fact, the difference between augmentative and alternative communication is merely the difference between partial and total dependency on non-speech communication. Speech may be replaced or augmented by:

1. gesture and body language.
2. manual sign.
3. handwriting.
4. communication aids.

Communication aids are devices developed or adapted for use by people with severe expressive communication impairments. Because these people have very varied skills, needs and problems there is a large range of communication aids.

http://www.annemcdonaldcentre.org.au/augmentative-and-alternative-communication

WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

http://www.oneroomschoolhouse.net/
http://www.nsta.org/disabilities/
http://alsassistivetechnology.blogspot.com/2013/09/hands-free-access-to-ipad-via-switch.html

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Literacy Instruction for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities Including Deafblindness

Literacy for All: In conversation with Dr. Caroline Musselwhite

These 11 video clips and related learning guides provide an opportunity to enhance and support teacher practice in the area of literacy for students with significant disabilities. Dr. Caroline Musselwhite is an assistive technology specialist with more than 30 years of experience working with children and adolescents with significant disabilities.

http://www.livebinders.com/play/play?id=1111536

Multiple Disabilities in Your Classroom: 10 Tips for Teachers By Sarah

Escowitz National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities (NICHCY)

How do you address the learning needs of your students with multiple disabilities? Here are some tips that you can use right away in you

1. Tap into the student's strengths.
2. Be ready to make modifications.
3. Ask for the program supports or modifications you need to be included in the IEP.
4. Partial participation can make the difference.
5. Learn about assistive technology (AT).
6. Learn about accessible textbooks.
7. Don't give up on a goal; practice and reinforce.
8. Deal with behavior issues.
9. Make the most of paraprofessionals.
10. Be involved in the student's transition planning.

http://www.fl-pda.org/independent/courses/TSWD/content/unit02/docs/Multiple_Disabilities_in_Your_Classroom_10_Tips_for_Teachers.pdf