

News Notes

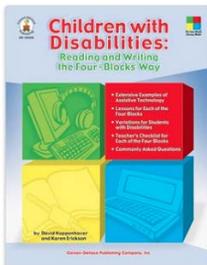
A Newsletter for Teachers of Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities
Educational Equity for All



April 2017

the RESOURCE teacher

Emergent Literacy for Students with Significant Disabilities



See how Natasha incorporates the 4 blocks (Shared Reading, Shared Writing, Independent Reading, Independent Writing) into weekly schedule with students who have significant disabilities. She has pictures and step by step process of engagement with her kids.

<http://theresourceteach.blogspot.com/2015/12/emergent-literacy-for-students-with.html>



THE OT TOOLBOX

IDEAS & TOOLS FOR THERAPISTS, TEACHERS, & PARENTS

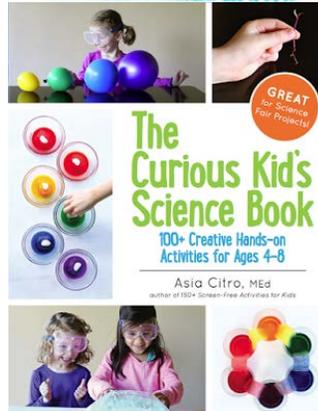


- Day 1 Visual Tracking Tips and Tools
- Day 2 Handwriting Spacing Tool and Spatial Awareness Tips and Tools
- Day 3 Motivating Handwriting Activities for Reluctant Writers
- Day 4 Cursive Handwriting on the Window

See all 31 days @ <https://goo.gl/ddFRX9>

Fun at Home with Kids

<https://goo.gl/uYzhvc>



Sensory Starter Kit for under \$20 from the Dollar Tree
baking soda and vinegar, Funnels, a big scooping spoon, Oats, salt, flax seed, cooking oil, Penne pasta, Linguine, beans, rice, shaving cream, sponges, bag of cotton balls, Play foam, pom poms,



[Printable Dollar Tree Shopping List](#)

Father, Son With Cerebral Palsy Aim For 500 Bands In 365 Days

by Allie Shah, Star Tribune/TNS | February 7, 2017

The story of a father and son on their epic quest to see 500 rock bands perform live in 2016. And though they didn't quite reach their goal (they saw 450 bands by year's end), Mason McDeid and his dad accomplished much — traveling across the country to see Iron Maiden, Metallica, Slipknot and more.

<https://www.disabilitycoop.com/2017/02/07/father-cerebral-palsy-500-bands/23289/>

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

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FEATURED IDEA OF THE MONTH

23

Upcycling Hacks for the Classroom



WE are TEACHERS

<https://www.weareteachers.com/23-classroom/>

It's Earth Month, which makes it a great time to remind your students to reduce, reuse, recycle...and upcycle! As a teacher, you're probably well aware of the art of upcycling. After all, budgets are tight, so you have to be.



Flexible Seating and Student-Centered Classroom Redesign [Kayla Delzer](#)

What the Research Says

Everything I do in my classroom is based on research and best practices for kids. Redesigning my classroom was not any different. I've found that some of the [immediate benefits](#) (PDF) of flexible seating include burning more calories, using up excess energy, improving metabolism, increased motivation and engagement, creating a better oxygen flow to the brain, and improving core strength and overall posture. It's no surprise that physical activity is linked to higher academic performance, better health, and improved behavior. In fact, [a paper by Matthew T. Mahar, et al](#) (PDF) finds that:

Simple in-class activities can boost performance. Studies suggest that children who participate in short bouts of physical activity within the classroom have more on-task behavior, with the best improvement seen in students who are least on-task initially.

Additionally, if you're looking to convince your administrators that flexible seating is right for your students or even your entire school, my principal [Jason Markusen has some interesting thoughts on this subject](#). Finally, Erin Klein, with her [brain-based classroom redesigns](#), was my original inspiration. She encouraged me to "ditch the desks."

<https://www.edutopia.org/blog/flexible-seating-student-centered-classroom-kayla-delzer>

ALTERNATIVE AND AUGMENTATIVE COMMUNICATION

Eye Gaze Videos/Websites:

These videos give descriptions of eye gaze and/or show different students using eye gaze in various ways to communicate.

- http://www.bridgeschool.org/transition/multimodal/eye_gaze_boards.php
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u7gT2jix-10&NR=1>

The following website give descriptions of eye gaze boards and their use.

- <http://teachinglearnerswithmultipleneeds.blogspot.com/2008/09/low-tech-e...>
- <http://aac.unl.edu/yaack/d4.html>
- <http://students.depaul.edu/~kgonzal7/>
- <http://www.cogain.org/faq/eye-gaze-communication-board>

WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

<http://www.senteacher.org/>

<https://goo.gl/IKcvnD>

<https://goo.gl/u1pvMo>



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Continuing
Education
Associates

SPECIAL
EDUCATION
AND NEEDS

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>

SECRETS FOR MODELING LANGUAGE WITH COMMUNICATION FLIP BOOKS:

1. Speak slowly. Never speak faster than you can point to words. Students need time to process the visual and verbal cues that you are giving them.
2. Use core vocabulary from the book. When possible, use the pronouns, verbs, and adjectives on your main page. I will often alter my directions or readings to have core words better represented. Using your main words over and over will help your students retain and use these words themselves.
3. Use familiar fringe vocabulary. There are thousands of possible fringe vocabulary words, but your goal is to highlight the most important words. Use the words that are familiar in your student's environment.

See more tips @ <https://goo.gl/a1dDWx>