

News Notes

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



January 2018

There's no cost to use StoryJumper at school or at home. Creating, sharing, and reading books online on StoryJumper is FREE!



**#1 RATED SITE FOR CREATING
STORY BOOKS**

Easily Publish Book, Add your voice, Read & Hear Books, Lesson Plans and Teachers Guides.

<https://www.storyjumper.com/school>



Take Charge of Your Safety

Kidpower Addresses Increased Risk Factors for Children with Disabilities

- Kidpower provides protective knowledge, skills, and actions for educators to help reduce the negative effects of students':
- Misunderstanding of what constitutes maltreatment
- Limited communication skills
- Dependence on others to meet their needs
- Social isolation and loneliness

Teaching social safety and protection skills for people with disabilities Our extensive online Library has over 200 [articles](#), [videos](#), handouts, and other resources,

Our [RelationsSafe Books](#) are inclusive of young people of all abilities and contain inspiring stories, clear examples, and step-by-step directions in how to use Kidpower's advocacy, intervention, and personal safety strategies and skills for both the general public and professionals

<https://www.kidpower.org/special-needs/>



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

Presents new online courses.
Here is a list of courses that

Titles available, beginning in Feb.

Educational Benefit for Students with Moderate to Severe Disabilities

This course has a series of modules which will introduce teachers to the complex world of special education. We will be looking at Educational Benefit as it occurs in a moderate to severe classroom. In this series of modules, we will be exploring the legal and moral obligations that you have as a teacher working with this student population.

Course Objectives Include: Identifying the aspects of a positive mindset, really looking at what educational benefit is beyond just the IEP. Talking about Least Restrictive Environment, looking at programming as it refers to educational benefit, and then talking about partnerships that occur in the classroom. Each of these components has an impact on educational benefit.

Teaching in the World of Special Education-This course has a series of modules which will introduce teachers to the complex world of special education. We will be looking at good instructional practices with students who have significant cognitive disabilities. We will be exploring the world of special education through a series of modules that will provide training and resources on creating a positive learning experience for all students.

Course Objectives Include: We will look at what our obligation is as a teacher, we will examine characteristics of syndromes, disabilities and disorders with educational implications and we will get into classroom management skills. Then we break down management into physical space and instructional processes. We will conclude with a discussion about access and engagement.

Please contact me for more information on group preview opportunities.

There are even more courses on the webpage.

<http://www.educationalequity4all.com/>

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

FEATURED IDEA OF THE MONTH

Building Social Skills for Students who are Nonverbal



theautismhelper.com

<http://theautismhelper.com/building-social-skills-students-nonverbal/>

TEACHER TIPS FOR WORKING WITH CHILDREN WITH SEVERE HANDICAPS

by [Sue Watson](#)

1. Prior to supporting the specific goal, it is important to make sure you have their attention. Typically, you'll be using a very direct teaching method.
2. As much as possible, use grade appropriate materials.
3. Identify some clear goals/expectations and stick with it. It takes a great deal of time to see success in most cases.
4. Be consistent and have predictable routines for everything you do.
5. Make sure that everything is relevant to the child you are working with.
6. Be sure to track progress carefully, which will help you define when the child is ready for the next milestone.
7. Remember that these children don't often generalize, so be sure to teach the **skill** in a variety of settings.
8. When the child has reached the goal, be sure to use the skill regularly to ensure mastery of the skill continues.

In summary, you are a very important person in this child's life. Be patient, willing and warm at all times. Watson, Sue. (2017, June 3). Tips for Working with Students with Severe Handicaps. Retrieved from <https://www.thoughtco.com/working-with-students-with-severe-handicaps-3111136>

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION
FOR CHILDREN
WITH MODERATE
TO SEVERE DISABILITIES**



**Physical Education for
Children With Moderate to
Severe Disabilities**

By [Michelle Grenier](#), [Lauren Lieberman](#)

ALTERNATIVE AND AUGMENTATIVE COMMUNICATION

AAC - Templates - Boardmaker

Here are the files for making low tech core books. You must have Boardmaker on your computer to open these files. [Boardmaker](#)

Many thanks to Adrienne Thomas and Jan Farrow for their thought and work in creating pages for easy use in our schools.

These are the Core Pages for Stage 1 -2 -3 learners

(adapted from Developing and Using a Communication Book by Clare Latham) [Claire Latham Book](#)

These are template pages for adding fringe vocabulary to your communication books.

These are premade preschool related vocabulary pages for young children- adapt as needed!

<http://at4kids.wikispaces.com/AAC++Templates++Boardmaker>

WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

<http://www.ksde.org/Portals/0/SES/KIAS/PLAAFP.pdf>

<https://www.cps.k12.in.us/Page/10148>

<http://theautismhelper.com/prepare-community-trip/>



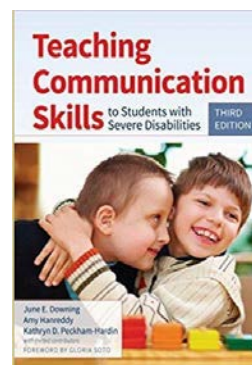
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Evidence-Based Practices for
Students with Severe Disabilities

Participants will understand that students with severe developmental disabilities will also need some intensive, systematic instruction to learn priority content, which can be embedded in the milieu of a general education classroom. Participants will learn what to teach as well as how to teach through systematic instruction and best practices for supporting students with severe disabilities in order to improve their outcomes.

<http://cedar.education.ufl.edu/cems/severe-disabilities/>



Teaching Communication Skills to
Students with Severe Disabilities
Today's best research and strategies are in the **NEW third edition** of this trusted textbook and teaching guide. Current and future education professionals will get **up-to-date information and practical guidance on the entire process of supporting communication for** students of all ages, from assessing their

communication skills
intervention.

**Low Functioning? High
Functioning?
What Are We Really Saying?**

<https://goo.gl/vfZbt2>

Please
STOP!!