

# News Notes

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



September 2018

Welcome back to a new year.

My number one goal at the end of the first day is not that they know the rules and consequences. It's that they're excited to be part of the class. That they run home to their parents and say, "Oh my gosh. I have the best teacher. I have this awesome class. It's going to be great."

~ Michael Linsin

## Back-to-School Tips for Special Education Teachers

By: [Kandace Wernsing](#), [Reading Rockets](#)

Our top 10 back-to-school tips for special education teachers emphasize communication, organization, and a focus on student success.

1. Organize all that paperwork
2. Start a communication log
3. Review your students' IEPs
4. Establish a daily schedule for you and your students
5. Call your students' families
6. Touch base with related service providers
7. Meet with your general education co-teachers
8. Keep everyone informed
9. Plan your B.O.Y. assessments
10. Start and stay positive

<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/back-school-tips-special-education-teachers>

## What Does Good Special Education Teaching Look Like?

By [Christina Samuels](#) on July 25, 2018 5:40 PM

The Council for Exceptional Children and the federally-supported Collaboration for Effective Educator Development, Accountability and Reform, also known as CEEDAR, came up with 22 "high-leverage practices" spread across four domains that should be mastered by newly-minted special education teachers.

Now, the same organizations have created videos showing some of those practices in action. The four videos, each about 20 minutes long, offer examples of a handful of these practices: "provide constructive and positive feedback," "systematically design instruction towards learning goals," "use explicit instruction," and "use strategies to promote active student engagement."

The video below, for example, demonstrates "explicit instruction," such as using a logical sequence within lessons, offering multiple opportunities for student feedback, and providing a range of examples for the content being taught.

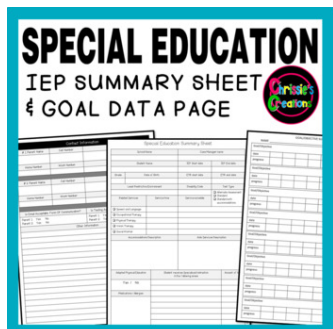


<https://goo.gl/rVgNF4>

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

Tana Donaghy, President, Educational Equity For All  
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<http://www.educationequity4all.com/>

## FEATURED IDEA OF THE MONTH



## FREE Special Education IEP Summary and Data sheet

<https://goo.gl/Yq83Sb>

## ALTERNATIVE AND AUGMENTATIVE COMMUNICATION

### Designing No Tech Augmentative Alternative Communication (AAC) Devices

- SIZE
- CORE VOCABULARY
- FRINGE VOCABULARY
- ORGANIZATION:
  - TRAIN COMMUNICATION PARTNERS
  - PHYSICAL CONSIDERATIONS

<http://slpllearningcurve.blogspot.com/>

### Resources for Improving Executive Functioning Skills

Executive functions are heavily dependent on attention. Read about the [attention and executive functioning skill connection](#) and the impact of attention on each of the executive functioning skills that children require and use every day.

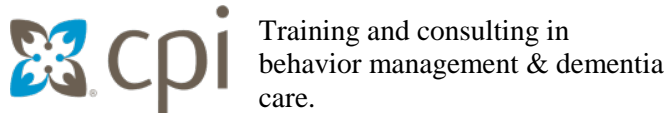
Check out these fun [games to help improve executive function skills](#).

Another area of interest to you might be the impact executive functioning skills have on handwriting. Here are [strategies for improving task initiation](#). Read about [tips for improving working memory](#). Here are tons of [tips for addressing organization issues](#) at home or in school. These are great for younger kids through adult!

Here are many activities and loads of information on [improving attention in kids](#).

Helping kids with impulse control can be a big challenge! Here are [tips that can help](#).

Here is a [free printable resource sheet on impulse control strategies](#) for the classroom (that can work in the home, too!) <https://goo.gl/w6TPBY>



Your Back-to-School Special Ed Classroom Checklist  
By Laura Merkle

### Divide your space

- Cubby area
- Group lesson area
- Individual work spaces
- Calming space:
- Play space
- Life skills area
- Staff area

<https://goo.gl/sSU95d>

## WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

<https://www.ellisoneducation.com/blog/>

<https://fromabcstoacts.com/>

<http://www.perfectdaystore.com/catalog.htm>



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



### GETTING THE MOST FROM SIMPLEK12

Presented by Kimber Thompson

August 8, 2018 7:00 - 7:30 PM EASTERN

### STEAM-TASTIC TRAINING FOR TEACHERS

Presented by SimpleK12

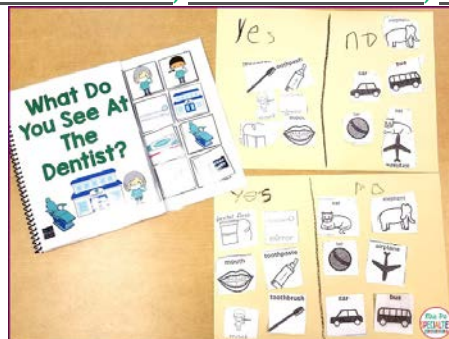
August 11, 2018 10:00 AM - 3:30 PM EASTERN

<https://www.simplek12.com/tier/free-event/>



## LOW PREP BOOK EXTENSION IDEAS

### COMPREHENSION, INSTRUCTION, READING



Interactive books can be used to target reading and listening comprehension just like any other text!

<https://www.mrspspecialties.com/2018/04/low-prep-book-extension-ideas.html>