

# News Notes

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



June 2016

Summer: the time of year when  
parents realize just how  
grossly underpaid  
teachers actually are.



your eCards  
someecards.com

Sensory Activities: Experiences to Improve  
Communication and Literacy for Children with  
Visual and Multiple Disabilities

### Perkins eLearning Webinar Series

A webcast featuring the expertise of Faye Gonzalez, a  
Teacher of the Visually Impaired as well as a Certified  
Orientation & Mobility Specialist. She explains the  
importance of pairing sensory activities and  
communication skills for more effective learning for  
children with visual and multiple disabilities.

<http://www.perkinselearning.org/videos/webinar/sensory-activities-experiences-to-improve-communication-and-literacy>

## Cooking Lessons for every SPED classroom



Breezy Spacial Ed

How to  
Incorporate  
Cooking  
Lessons into  
your Special  
Education  
Classroom

Here's some ideas to help you start thinking out of the  
box and bringing cooking lessons to your students.

**Make it portable:** Bring small appliances such as  
microwaves, blenders, griddles, toasters, etc. into your  
classroom. Either bring them in from home on the days you will  
be cooking or see what you can find at thrift stores/garage  
sales or ask for donations to your classroom. A mini fridge  
would be great as well!

**Use technology to role play / pretend:** Use cooking  
tutorials on websites such these food and cooking tutorials on  
GCFLearnFree to practice the steps of using mixing and using  
an oven. I love that this one will have the cake turn out poorly if  
you set the timer wrong!

**Interactive Books:** Use  
interactive recipe books to  
practice cooking steps.

### Cooking "Homework":

You could also practice various  
cooking skills and review recipes  
with resources like the interactive  
books above, and then send  
home a visual recipe for the  
students to prepare at home  
with their family.



**Worksheets and File Folders:** Incorporate some desk  
work into your cooking lessons when you can't use the kitchen.  
<http://www.breezyspecialed.com/2016/05/how-to-incorporate-cooking-lessons-into.html>



CENTER FOR IMPLEMENTING  
TECHNOLOGY IN EDUCATION

### Adapted Text Websites

These sites offer text at multiple reading levels, offering  
teachers the opportunity to provide differentiated instruction  
for the general curriculum. Consider downloading and printing  
texts prior to a lesson or assigning students to read the text  
online. [http://www.cited.org/index.aspx?page\\_id=138](http://www.cited.org/index.aspx?page_id=138)

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

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## FEATURED IDEA OF THE MONTH



<http://www.instructables.com/id/Soda-Bottle-Sand-Timer/>

### Soda Bottle Sand Timer



## ALTERNATIVE AND AUGMENTATIVE COMMUNICATION



[http://ilc.com.au/resources/2/0000/0120/ilc\\_tech\\_best\\_practice\\_in\\_aac.pdf](http://ilc.com.au/resources/2/0000/0120/ilc_tech_best_practice_in_aac.pdf)



## FUNCTIONAL COMMUNICATION TRAINING: WHY IT'S MORE THAN JUST "USE YOUR WORDS"

In using FCT, we have to make sure that we follow the guidelines from [the last post](#) about teaching replacement skills in general. Quickly, that means making sure that the communication skill serves the same function and that it gets that function more quickly, more easily and more reliably than the challenging behavior.

- CHOOSING THE COMMUNICATION FORM
- TEACHING THE SKILL
- PRACTICE
- REDUCE REINFORCEMENT FOR CHALLENGING BEHAVIOR
- THE BUILD IN DELAYS OR WORK

<http://www.autismclassroomresources.com/functional-communication-training-why/>



### Moderate and Severe Disabilities: A Foundational Approach 1st Edition

by [Belva C. Collins](#)

## WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

- <http://www.busykidshappymom.org/life-skills/>
- <http://www.recreationtherapy.com/tx/txdd.htm>
- <http://www.home-speech-home.com/following-directions-activities.html>
- <http://theautismhelper.com/adapted-books-literacy-activities-nonreaders/>

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Be the difference in your classroom!



The Venetian/The Palazzo  
Las Vegas, NV  
July 18-22, 2016  
<http://sde.com/Nationals>