

News Notes

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



December 2017



At the North Pole, Santa has many helpers who make the Christmas season special! His Scout Elves serve as his eyes and ears in homes around the world, while his Elf Pets® play special roles in creating Christmas spirit that will help Santa complete all of his Christmas duties. Read on to learn more about the Scout Elves, Elf Pets® Reindeer, and Elf Pets® Saint Bernard.



Register today for The Elf on the Shelf® Teacher Resource Center and you'll receive the most up-to-date news and announcements about our teacher-specific programs. After you register, be sure to explore all of our Santa-approved classroom tools and benefits:

- FREE lesson plans that support the Common Core State Standards Initiative*
- FREE holiday-themed activity sheets that students will love
- FREE ideas for Scout Elves via email

**In content areas that apply: K-5*



<https://www.elfontheshelf.com/teacher-resource-center>

December Holiday Lesson Plans and Activities - Christmas, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah and More

December: A month of multicultural holiday celebrations Do your students celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or Three Kings Day? Maybe they celebrate St. Lucia Day or Ramadan. December offers great opportunities for teaching about our multicultural world. Included: Teaching lessons and resources.

<http://www.educationworld.com/holidays/archives/december.shtml>



Remember that holidays can be a huge distraction for students with special needs. Too much sensory overload can derail the best behavior plans



Check out free videos, games, and resources for students on a variety of topics.



WATCH THIS BIZARRE VIDEO!
YOU WON'T BELIEVE THE DANCE MOVES THIS BIRD CAN DO. CHECK IT OUT.

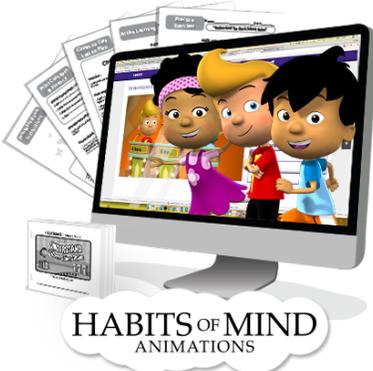
<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/>

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

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FEATURED IDEA OF THE MONTH

Wonder Grove Learn™



Habits of Mind Animations teach young children critical thinking and problem solving skills using engaging videos and activities.

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=habits+of+mind+animations



ASCD offers Habits of Mind Animations - Online Subscription that includes activity books as companion to videos.
<https://goo.gl/kE3raa>

ALTERNATIVE AND AUGMENTATIVE COMMUNICATION



<https://smartsymbols.com/aac-where-do-i-start-and-then-what/>

WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

<http://www.mrsrichardsonsclass.com/lesson-ideas/curriculum/?pp=0>
<https://www.thoughtco.com/winter-holiday-activities-6874>
<https://goo.gl/9CGF2J>



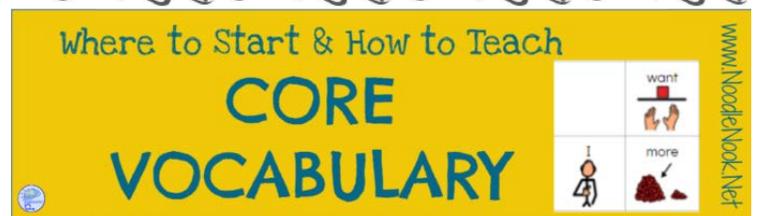
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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



I am happy to announce some new directions for professional development that will kick off in December and January. I will now have some online courses available for anyone who works with kids. I am also getting ready to launch some local workshops and weekend “make and take” sessions. Watch for registration details on my website store.

<https://shop.educationequity4all.com/products?olsFocus=false&olsPage=products>



What Word Should I Teach First?

As the last post on AAC suggested, teaching the word ‘GO’ is a great place to start. You will find there’s lots of practical uses for the word in the classroom.

So what next?

Here are the next 4 words to attack as part of your Core Vocabulary training:

Want

More

Finished

Yes/No

AND, just because we love our readers, here is a [FREEBIE communication board](#) with these words as a visual to start. It will remind you of your target words and allow a student to not get overwhelmed with all the core vocab at once.

<http://www.noodlenook.net/start-core-vocabulary/>

THE very VISUAL SCHEDULE



Provides Closure!



Here’s Why:

- ♥ Easily provides closure to tasks by **fully closing over them and stating “FINISHED.”**
- ♥ Easily allows for swiping out tasks when unusual events occur such as assemblies
- ♥ Comes with 30 tasks and also the **ability to fully customize your own schedule**
- ♥ Includes both a Whole-Class Schedule, as well as Individual Desk Schedules

<http://speechpeeps.com/2016/11/the-very-visual-schedule.html>

Augmenting Board Books



speech & language therapy with a twist



Danielle walks you through how to create your own board books and she even provides the pictures for several common stories for free. Check it out at:

<http://sublimespeech.com/2012/06/augmenting-board-books.html>