



Using Grade Level Content with Those with Significant Cognitive Disabilities

- Access to grade level materials, activities, or environments supports children with significant cognitive disabilities being perceived much like others in their age group.
- Participation in activities at grade level provides functional or meaningful experiences that improve the quality of life and promote self-determination.
- Ideally the perceptions of others will be positively affected when individuals have more age-appropriate topics about which to converse.
- Teachers are expecting more from students and getting it!
- The most meaningful benefit could be the more normal relationships that result from interactions with peers, teachers and family.



Designing Relevant Tasks

- Instructional tasks should be RELEVANT to the student:
 - Pick and choose the most relevant standards/elements
 (Not every standard in the general curriculum must be taught for students with significant cognitive disabilities.)
 - From these standards, relevant activities can be





 Not to question if they will achieve the ability to read, write and comprehend the standards in traditional ways





Educators Role



- Instill the "Desire"
- Expose and formally introduce the standards
- Enhance the development of the child's social, cognitive and communicative opportunities

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACCESS -¶/¶\-1 EXPOSE ΔI IGN IEP drives instruction Need to add: Team Up fo Students Grade Level 8 Special Ed. & Standard IEP General Ed. Assistive Best Practice Adapt Grade level . materials Technology



3. Can I integrate IEP objectives with the identified standards to make them functionally appropriate for my students?

Assistive Technology (AT)



 Assistive Technology (AT) plays a MAJOR role in providing access to the tasks for students with significant cognitive disabilities

 AT should be provided to give the student information needed to complete the task, and for the student to actively participate in the activities.









<u>Unit Planning</u> Teaching across the Curriculum

- Many topics/themes naturally lead to a variety of follow-up activities.
- Extend themes into other areas of the curriculum with ELA, science, social studies, math, cooking, art, drama and/or music.
- Repetition is the key! Kids with "ID" it takes 250 times to learn a skill.
- Use the same framework so the activities become routine.
- Familiarly lends itself to learning!











Conditions for learning:

- The material/content has to be meaningful in some way to the student.
- There has to be purpose to the activity. .
- Students must be actively engaged in . instruction.
- Materials may have to be adapted for individual student needs. ٠

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- Success doesn't look the same for all students.
- Tips to help learning happen- graphics/ symbol sets, matching, sorting, sequencing, one to one correspondence, and color coding .

ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS TASK & MATERIALS EXAMPLES

for students with significant cognitive impairments





ELA4LSV1; ELA5LSV1

- -Asks relevant questions
- -Responds to questions with appropriate information
- -Displays appropriate turn-taking behaviors
- -Actively solicits another person's comments or opinions

Pizza on Pink Paper























- Use manipulatives related to stories/units
- Picture graphs
- Use number lines for 1-1 correspondence
- Numbers on the floor to line up
- Tasks numbered or coded
- Vocational tasks sorting objects by size, matching
- Counting out items for snack
- Embedded in activities and/or games
- Calendar symbols, voice output Quantitative concepts more/less,
- big/small, etc. Count EVERYTHING – repetition is key







































Ideas for Themes

- Functional Themes
- Science
- Social Studies
- Grade Level Literature
- Principal's Book of the Month















Thank you for your interest in

Making All the Difference by Making It Different

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