

Specific and practical differentiated instruction and assessment strategies

There are several approaches being used in order to help students with physical disabilities progress and succeed in their classrooms: universal design, differentiating instruction, and assistive technology.

Universal Design:

- Suggests that what is designed for one purpose – or to assist one specific group of people – may be more broadly applicable than its initial intent. for example, a ramp in a building may be included to help a person in a wheelchair access the facility but may be used by people with strollers, etc.



Differentiated Instruction:

- Effective instruction that is responsive to the learning preferences, interest, and readiness of an individual learner.
- Suggests that when we plan to teach the whole class, we need to focus on the specific needs and preferences of individuals in the class.

Assistive Technology:

- Any device/tool that enables a student to participate in learning activities
- Allows students with severe impairments to express themselves

Examples: Keyboard & mouse alternatives, voice recognition services



Physical Disabilities

By: Ryan Douglass, Niki Tisma, Rachel Janssens, Dahlia Monk, & Jordyn Chaimberg

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Students



Introduction

When we use the term physical disability, we are referring to a condition of such severe physical limitation or deficiency as to require special assistance in learning situations to provide the opportunity for educational achievement equivalent to that of pupils without exceptionalities who are of the same age or development level.

In this pamphlet you will find information regarding the following physical disabilities: Acquired Brain Injury (ABI), Blindness, Cerebral Palsy, & Spina Bifida.



“Label jars...not people”

Acquired Brain Injury (ABI):

Any type of sudden injury that causes temporary or permanent damage to the brain. ABI can be divided into two categories:

- 1) Traumatic
- 2) Non- Traumatic

Blindness:

Visual impairment includes a range of vision loss, including low vision. Specifically, it is defined as “an impairment in vision that, even with correction, adversely affects a child’s educational performance. The term includes both partial sight and blindness.

Cerebral Palsy:

A group of disorders that affects a person’s ability to move and maintain balance and posture. Cerebral palsy is caused by abnormal brain development or damage to the developing brain that affects a person’s ability to control his or her muscles.

- Some students may prefer to sit on the floor
- Because of muscular tensions, students should change their positions every 20-30 minutes
- Ensure that the classroom is set up so that it is easy for all students to move around in

Spina Bifida:

Type of birth defect called a neural tube defect. It occurs when the bones of the spine (vertebrae) do not form properly around part of the baby’s spinal cord. Spina bifida can be mild or severe.

Accommodations Vs. Modifications

Accommodation is a way of supporting the individual to make sure that they get a meaningful education.

Modification means a change in what is expected from the child and this might mean a change in a task all together.