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Essentials in Classroom for Special Children

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For special children suitable arrangements must be made in the classroom to make the study environment more effective and better for learning. The teacher should be able to identify learning difficulty in the special children using diagnostic assessments and make changes accordingly. Also, special educator must use strategies that assist individual child in learning and further help in choosing particular learning style.

Arrangement in classroom for special children

* Desks must be arranged in a manner that each child gets his own personal space.

* In the beginning no sharing or grouping should be encouraged till the child is comfortable.

* Teacherâ€™s desk should be placed at the opposite end of the classroom from where students can be monitored easily.

* Some part of the room should be filled with educational things such as puzzles, books with pictures etc, where child can spend some time for self- learning.

Create a suitable environment

* Safe and barrier-free environment must be created. Things that are not required must be removed such as objects cluttered on the floor, desks, equipment, architectural barriers, etc.

* Comfortable and attractive furniture in the classroom should be placed so that the environment is positive and enjoyable.

Reduce distractions

* Students must be seated in the area free from distractions. All the visual distractions in the classroom should be minimized.

* Special children are highly sensitive to light and noise. Proper arrangement of light, noise level, ventilation must be there in the classroom for effective learning as they get irritated easily.

Disciplining behavior

* Develop a system that alerts student and he/she comes to know that his behavior is not appropriate.

* Such behavior intervention plan must be developed which is realistic and achievable.

* Provide instant feedback and reinforcement.

* Avoid disagreement and control struggles.

* Teacher must work on recognizing academic and behavioral goals of the child. Then, must identify strategies for achieving it.

* Rewards must be given for appropriate behavior to encourage the child.

Teach to self-monitor

* Slowly but steadily children with special needs must be taught to monitor themselves and evaluate their own behavior. With time they do it without teacherâ€™s constant feedback.

* Further with time, teacher involvement is reduced and student begins self-monitoring. In the process teacher must ignore inappropriate behavior which unintentional.

Adapting the classroom environment is not difficult for special children. They might take some time but it does involve careful planning.

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