

# Integrating Students with Special needs into the Classroom

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Teaching Strategies and Adaptations

# Special Needs:

## A Working Definition

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- *Children have special educational needs if they have a learning difficulty which calls for special educational needs provisions. This relates to individuals from a disadvantaged background or with mental, emotional, or physical disability; or a high risk of developing one. (Merium Webster dictionary)*
  - *Individuals with learning disabilities have a significantly greater difficulty learning than the majority of children of the same age; or have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of educational facilities of a kind generally provided for children of the same age in schools within the area of the local education authority. (Code of Practice, UK education system)*
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# What do you Think?

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- What types of disorders or syndromes require additional or different types of services in the school system?
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# Special Needs Categories

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- Sensory Impairments (hearing, visual, speech or language)
  - Physical Impairments
  - Health Impairments
  - Emotional Disturbance
  - Traumatic Brain Injury
  - Learning Disabilities
  - Mental Retardation
  - Autism
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# Barriers to Education

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- Transportation
  - Building access (ramps vs stairs)
  - Modified Educational Materials
  - Stigmatization
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# The Roles of the Teacher (and the community)

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Reduce barriers to education by:

- ❑ Treating special needs students as equals. If you treat special needs children as equals, it may not be necessary to treat them differently.
  - ❑ Not over supporting children with special needs. Foster independence by never doing for a child what s/he is capable of doing for him/herself.
  - ❑ ***Keeping children with special needs mainstream by accommodating the regular curriculum in order to meet the students with disabilities goals rather than modifying the curriculum.***
  - ❑ Working with all students in the class.
  - ❑ Setting high, but attainable goals for every students
  - ❑ Knowing how to modify instruction for students with special needs
  - ❑ Developing alternative assessments when necessary
  - ❑ Include respect for differences as part of your regular curriculum; it fosters respect for diversity.
  - ❑ Advocating for educational equality for children with special needs
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# What do you Think?

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What are some things that teachers can do in the classroom to make a classroom more accessible to students with disabilities?

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# Classroom Modifications

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- ❑ Change seating arrangements (seat students near the board, in groups, or away from distractions)
  - ❑ Modify materials (large print books and worksheets, manipulatives, picture cards, computer programs, books on tape)
  - ❑ Make the school and classroom accessible (larger desks, lower shelves, ramps)
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# Modified Teaching Strategies and Adaptations

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- ❑ Adapt the way instruction is given
  - ❑ Adapt the number of items a learner is expected to learn or complete
  - ❑ Adapt the difficulty of questions
  - ❑ Adapt how students are allowed to respond in class
  - ❑ Adapt the method in which students can complete assignments and respond to test questions
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# Special Needs Activity

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- Answer the following questions:
    1. Read the short paragraph that you have been given describing a special needs disorder.
    2. List what kinds of difficulties a student with this diagnosis would face in school and in class.
    3. Review the lists of activities of the multiple intelligences and classroom modifications.
    4. Brainstorm a list of Modifications you could implement at your school and in class in order to develop a more accessible environment for a student with this diagnosis.
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# Lesson Plan Activity

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- The lesson for the day is teaching fourth graders how to add and subtract numbers greater than one hundred. Your classroom has twenty students. One of the students has mobility issues and cannot hold a pencil. One student should be wearing glasses but his family cannot afford them. One student has behavior disabilities and has difficulty sitting in his chair for more than ten minutes. Another student has difficulty reading and always seems to draw his letters and numbers backwards.
  - Your goal is to design a lesson/activities that will teach all the students in the classroom described above how to add numbers and subtract numbers greater than one hundred.
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# NGO advocates

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- Shpresa: <http://www.shpresa.org/>
  - Polio Plus:  
<http://www.polioplus.org.mk/>
  - Poraka Macedonia:  
[http://www.poraka.org.mk/en/index.  
htm](http://www.poraka.org.mk/en/index.htm)
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