

Inclusive Strategies for Teaching Young Children with Special Needs in the Preschool Classroom

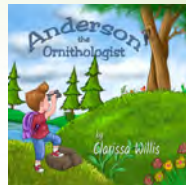
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A New Look at Inclusion



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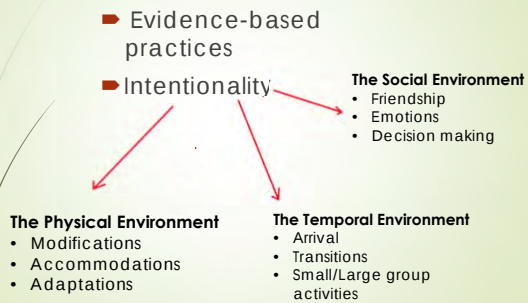
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The Role of the Teacher

- People first language
- Answering questions
- Including everyone
- Zero tolerance for bullying
- Teaching safety
- Essential social skills
- Understanding the amazing brain
- Partnering with families
- Empowerment over Enablement

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What does an inclusive environment look like?



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The Physical Environment

- Modifications
 - Accommodations
 - Adaptations
- Specialized equipment
 - Arranging the classroom
 - Understanding of Behavior
 - Proactive planning
 - Ability to plan for the unexpected

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The Social Environment

- Friendship
 - Emotions
 - Decision making
- What do families want for their child?
 - Expressing emotion is a challenge.
 - The amygdala and its role in behavior

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Five Important Factors

1. All children can participate.
2. Children learn best in natural environments with typically developing peers.
3. Each child is unique a child might exhibit one or more of these characteristics of a disability.
4. Always put the child first
5. Parents know all about what their child **can't do**, tell them about the things he can do!

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At-Risk Children

- Abject poverty
- Home insecure
- Familial Issues
 - Adolescent mother
 - Incarcerated parent
 - Foster care
 - Abuse and neglect

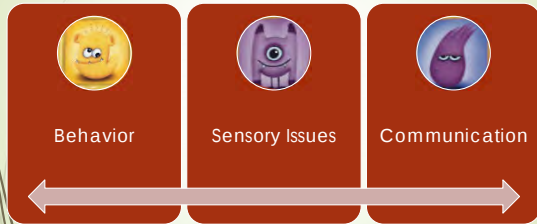
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Autism Spectrum Disorder Diagnosis

Medical Diagnosis	Educational Determination
- Made by a licensed physician or psychologist - Usually based on the criteria listed in the <i>Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5)</i> - Diagnosis: autism spectrum disorder	- Made by a multidisciplinary school team - Based on the regulations governing Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 (IDEA '04) - Required to access educational services - Eligibility determination: autism

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The Big Three



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Emotional & Behavior Issues

- Characteristics
- What to do?
- Evidence-based practices
 - Active supervision
 - Behavior-specific praise
 - Request a break
 - ABCs of behavior

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Developmental Delays

- The term developmental delays is often used by physicians when a child is delayed but they don't want to diagnose the child as special needs
- It leaves the possibility that the child may 'catch up' since all children develop at different speeds.
- It would typically not be used for a child with a very specific disability, such as Down syndrome.

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5 Areas in Which a Child Might Have A Delay

- 1. Cognitive (or thinking) skills:** This is the ability to think, learn and solve problems. It's how kids explore the world around them with their eyes, ears, and hands.
- 2. Social and emotional skills:** This is the ability to relate to other people. That includes being able to express and **control emotions**.
- 3. Speech and language skills:** This is the ability to use and understand language.
- 4. Fine and gross motor skills:** This is the ability to use small muscles (**fine motor**), particularly in the hands, and large muscles (**gross motor**) in the body.
- 5. Daily living activities:** This is the ability to handle everyday tasks. For children, that includes eating, dressing, and bathing themselves.

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Sensory Processing Disorder

Sense	Sensory Avoider	Sensory Seeker
Sight	- Cover eyes - Overwhelmed by color - Rubs/squints	- Low light response - Holds items close to face - Stares at flickering lights
Sound	- Covers ears - Responds to sounds others ignore - Appears to not hear - Yells with fingers in ear	- Speaks loudly - Turns up volume - Sings loudly - Loves toys that make loud noises
Smell	- Holds nose - Sniffs air or people	- Ignores bad odors - Unaware of strong smells
Touch	- Doesn't like touch - Sensitive to textures - Scratches at skin - Startles when touched	- Bumps into others - Chew on items - Unaware of temperature changes - Appears to not recognize pain - Doesn't cry when falls down
Taste	- Gags - Hot/Cold & textures	- Loves spicy food - Salt and pepper - Licks objects/trays
Movement	- Clumsy - Doesn't like to move (dance etc)	- Twirls without getting dizzy - Moves constantly - Moves Fast

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The importance of Literacy

- Read books that demonstrate cultural responsiveness
- Build understanding
- Teach acceptance of differences
- Recognize that children with special needs 'can' do many things



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What you teach me?

I am special and I am unique
I may not hear or even speak.
But I can learn, and I can do
Just how much depends on
you.
