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Love and Support is All They Need!

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Love and Support is All They Need!

Skills Needed to Teach Students with Disabilities



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Engagement

I was given the task to research something in my English class, and immediately I knew that I wanted to know the essential skills needed to teach students with disabilities. This sparked an interest in me because I was just accepted into the Special Education Program here at Utah State.

I wanted to make sure that I had a better understand and new perspectives on what skills are needed to be a good teacher for these students.

Research

As I was researching this topic, I first used the information I already knew. I was a peer tutor all through junior high. I was taught skills through helping students, but also from my teachers. I then researched for those who are currently in this field and drew conclusions from what skills they find to be useful. Finally, I looked for what the kids wanted from their teachers. Each of them needs something different.

Conclusion

There are many skills needed to be a teacher for students with disabilities. Adaptation, communication, empathy, effective tools and strategies, and many more. However, each of these children are different and all they need is constant love and support. These are the essential skills needed to teach students with disabilities.



Skills Needed:

- **Communication**

Communication is one of the most vital and necessary skills to have when teaching students with disabilities. Their brains learn differently than ours, and we need to be able to help them learn in a different way. Speaking to them in different ways, slowing down, or helping them through hands on tasks, will show them that we see they need a different way of communicating not only feelings but also learning.

- **Empathy**

Empathy is something that we all can give to one another, however for students with disabilities it is hard to find others who are like them. As teachers it is hard to feel connected to these student, but we all have our challenges in life. When we share these struggles with our students, it can help them to realize that they aren't alone and that we can be there for them.

- **Kids Needs**

Many students with disabilities don't have much support at home or their basic life needs aren't met. In the classroom, we need to meet those needs for them. Help them see that they are love and cared for and that they matter. Helping meet these basic needs for kids will help them grow later in life.

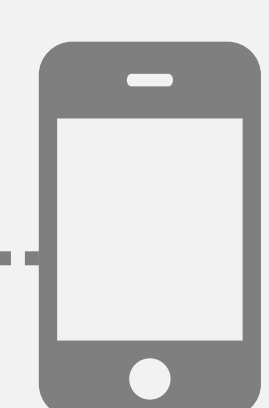


This student has down syndrome and is also blind. I worked with him almost everyday in junior high. This kid is the absolute sweetest! I miss him so much and am so lucky that I got the chance to work with him!

Some alternative views that I noticed during my research process are, students with disabilities and the color of their skin. Some of these students still aren't being treated fairly at school. This isn't acceptable. We need to treat all our kids equally no matter the color of their skin. Having a disability already makes them different from others, we shouldn't make it any worse by excluding them because of the color of their skin.



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