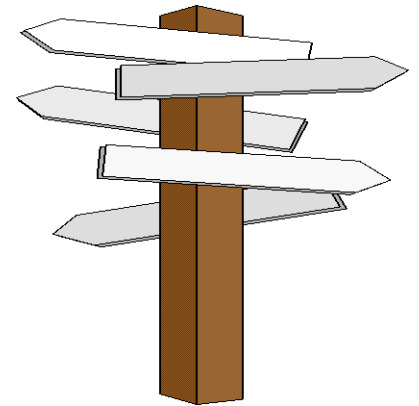


Characteristics of Children with Special Needs

- ✓ Characteristics... or stereotypes?
- ✓ Children with disabilities are individuals
- ✓ Stereotypes can limit our ability to predict children's behavior

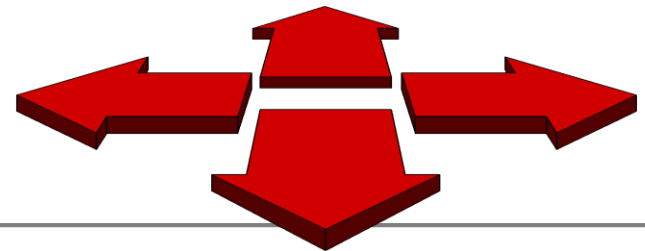
Attention Deficit Disorder

- **Give clear and simple directions.**
- **Repetition and consistency is important.**
- **Keep children physically separated – assign seats.**
- **Activities may help distract a child.**
- **Report worsening behavior – it could indicate a serious problem.**



Autism

- Simple 1 or 2 word directions.
- Don't provide choices – use a gentle, firm voice.
- Distracting a child may help – something to hold in their hands.
- Storyboards can help.
- Some autistic children use keyboard communication devices.
- Evacuation planning is key.
- Pull the bus over when severe problems occur that impact safety.



Hearing and Visual Impairments

Consistency in seating, communication and student management is essential.

Visual Impairments

Degree of intervention needed varies greatly – independence is the goal

Hearing Impairments

Learn and use basic signs and finger spelling

Deaf-Blind

Children who are deaf-blind are dependent on routine - communicate by touch

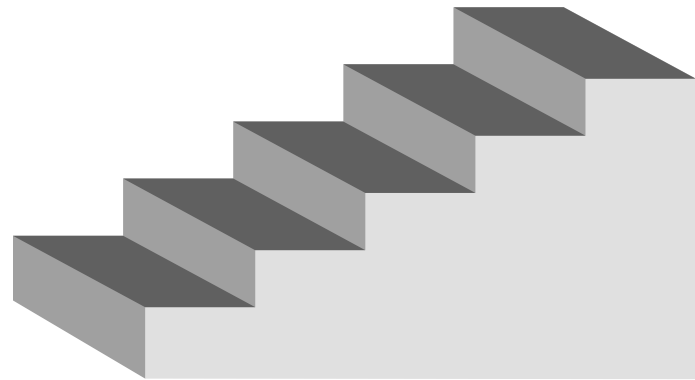
Emotional Disabilities

- Use names and learn their interests.
- Don't threaten or try to intimidate.
- Enforce safety rules consistently and fairly.
- Avoid “taking it personally” or getting trapped in a “conflict spiral.”
- Learn non-verbal clues to anticipate and defuse an incident.
- Structured daily routine helps.



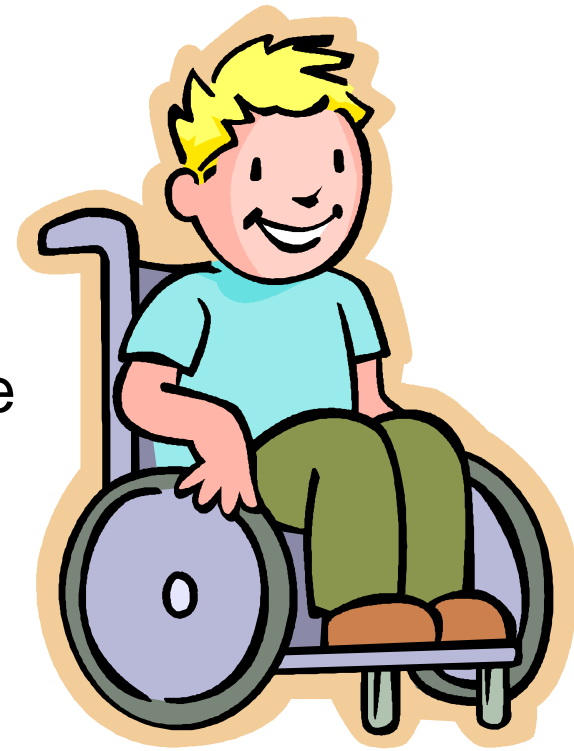
Intellectual Disability

- Consistency and routine are essential.
- Children with an Intellectual Disability are often affectionate and enjoy relating to adults.
- Speak simply and firmly.
- Watch for patterns of things that can provoke a child.



Multiple Disabilities

- Range and severity of disabilities vary greatly.
- Children should be closely monitored during the bus ride.
- Non-verbal communication may be necessary.
- Positive attention can side track negative behaviors.



Specific Learning Disability

- Establish trusting and respectful relationships.
- May not require special transportation arrangements.
- Driver sensitivity may defuse a potential behavior problem.
- Be patient and understanding when giving verbal directions.



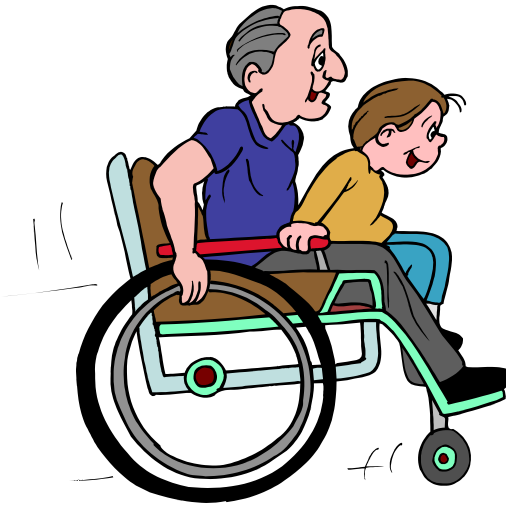
Speech or Language Impairment

- Children may be targets of harassment or jokes.
- Learn each child's unique patterns of speech.
- A child may “say one thing and do another.”
- A child with a language impairment may also have a hearing impairment.



Traumatic Brain Injuries

- Patience and compassion are essential.
- Verbal communication can be limited.
- Child was not born with the disability – may feel frustrated or angry.
- Rehabilitation staff may have tips for safe transportation.



Other Health Impairments

- **Asthma** - Air quality
 - **Hemophilia** - Priority seating
 - **Seizures and epilepsy** - Seat assignment - Light and temperature controls
 - **Diabetes** - Recognize low blood sugar - Some diabetic children carry glucose tablets
 - Health impaired children must be monitored during the ride.
-

Orthopedic Impairment

- A diverse population – ability to function independently varies.
- Wheelchair loading and securement requires diligence.
- Evacuation concerns – written plan is needed.
- Occupational and physical therapists can be good sources of information.



Children who are Medically Fragile

- Respiratory difficulties
 - Tracheostomy, gastrostomy
 - Colostomy, ileostomy
 - Nasogastric tube
 - Urostomy
 - DNRs
 - Ventilators, suction devices
 - Oxygen
 - Transporting medication – follow policy
 - Children must be closely monitored during the ride
 - Oxygen lines, feeding and drain tubes must be checked
 - Evacuation plan must be in place
-

Preschoolers with Special Needs

- Neither compartmentalization nor lap seat belts are adequate for very young children on a school bus.
- Children less than 50 pounds must use an approved safety seat or Child Safety Restraint System.
- Keep out of rear seats.
- Evacuation concerns – have a plan.



Click the link below to complete the Characteristics of Children with Special Needs Quiz

Characteristics of Children with Special Needs

