

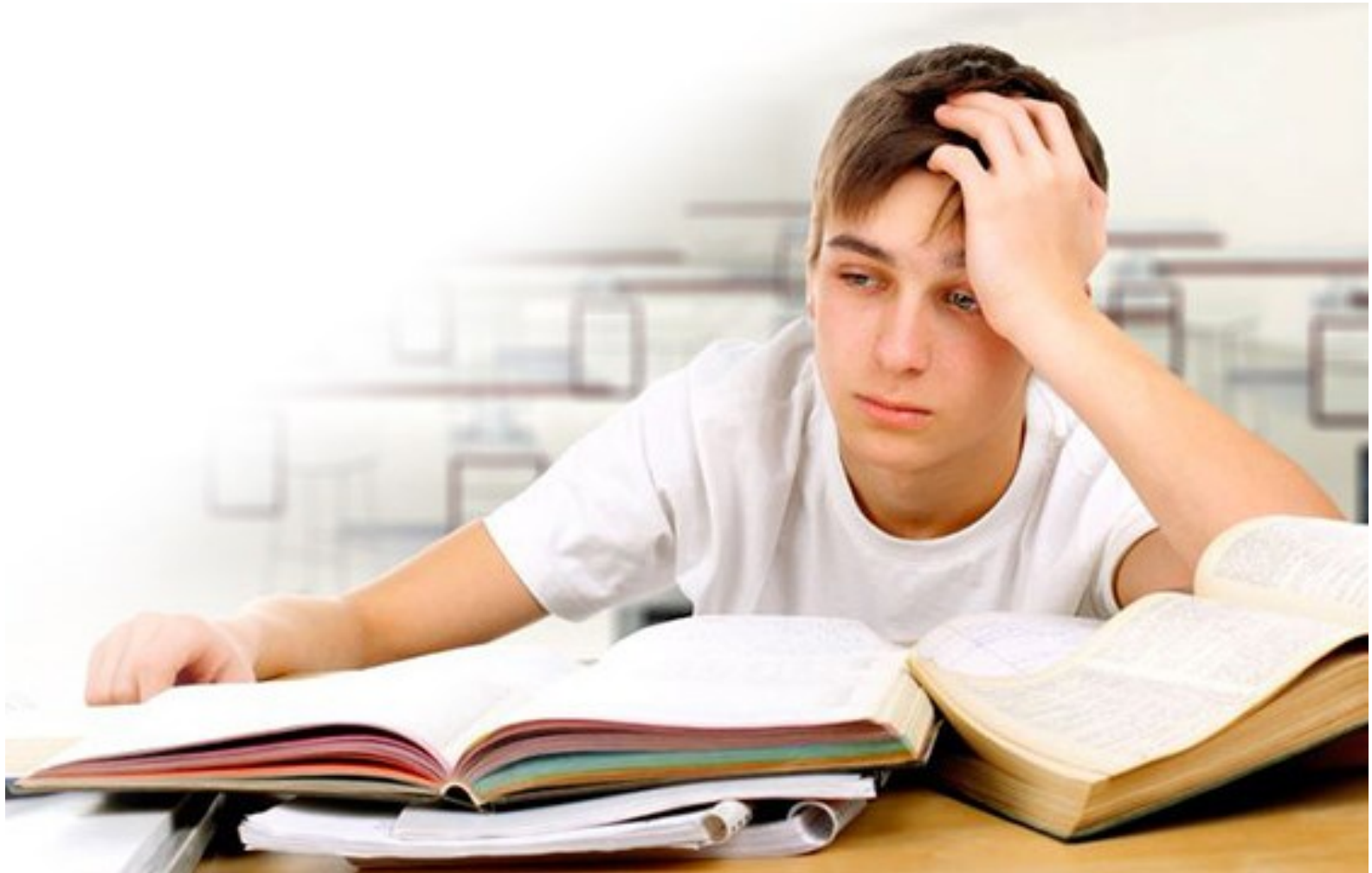


Understanding Disabilities.... Who are these students?

“If a child cannot learn in the way we teach.....we must teach in a way the child can learn.”

Ivar Lovaas

The Story of Craig.....



Disability Classifications

Five disability categories commonly found in public schools:

- Specific Learning Disability 22.7%
- Other Health Disabilities 14.0%
- Autism Spectrum Disorder 13.0%
- Emotional Behavior Disorders 11.0%
- Developmental Cognitive Disabilities 5.0%

Specific Learning Disability

Definition:

- A disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or in using language, spoken or written, that may manifest itself in the ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell or do mathematical calculation

Specific Learning Disability

There are many types of learning disabilities. They often impact student abilities in one or more of the following categories:

- **Spoken language—listening and speaking**
- **Written language—reading, writing, and spelling**
- **Arithmetic—calculation and mathematical concepts**
- **Reasoning—organization and integration of ideas and thoughts**

Specific Learning Disability

Educational Implications:

- Auditory perception and processing—the student may have difficulty processing information communicated through lectures or class discussions. He or she may have difficulty distinguishing subtle differences in sound or knowing which sounds to attend to.

Specific Learning Disability

Accommodations:

- **DO** allow adequate time for students to process their thoughts in a written journal before oral expression is required.
- **DON'T** ignore the student or pass them by before they have had enough time to process their response.

Specific Learning Disability

Educational Implications:

- Visual perception and processing—the student may have difficulty distinguishing subtle differences in shape, deciding what images to focus on when multiple images are present, skip words or repeat sections when reading, or misjudge depth or distance. He or she may have difficulty processing information in the same manner as others.

What is it?



What is it?



Specific Learning Disability

Accommodations:

- Step-by-step prompts or multipurpose instructions
- Verbal modeling, questioning, and demonstration by teachers
- Students cued, reminded, and/or taught to use strategies/procedures

Specific Learning Disability

Educational Implications:

Information processing speed—the student may process auditory and visual information more slowly than the average person. He or she may be a slow reader because of the need for additional time to decode and comprehend written material.

Specific Learning Disability

Educational Implications:

Memory (long-term, short-term)—the student may have difficulty with the storing or recalling of information during short or long time periods.

Specific Learning Disability

Educational Implications:

Mathematical calculation—the student may have difficulty manipulating numbers, may sometimes invert numbers, and may have difficulty converting problems described in words to mathematical expressions.

Specific Learning Disability

Educational Implications:

Executive functioning (planning and time management)—the student may have difficulty breaking larger projects into smaller sub-projects, creating and following a timeline, and meeting deadlines.

Specific Learning Disability

Accommodations:

- Teach visualization skills
- Have student teach you or another student
- Number your directions
- Help make connections

Specific Learning Disability

Accommodations:

- Post schedules and directions
- Say to the student, “This is important to know because.....”
- Highlight key words and ideas on worksheets.
- Create checklists of steps for complex assignments.

Other Health Disabilities

Definition:

- Having limited strength, vitality, or alertness to environmental stimuli, that results in limited alertness with respect to the educational environment; that....
 - is due to chronic or acute health condition such as asthma, attention deficit disorder, diabetes, epilepsy, a heart condition, Tourette syndrome, etc..
 - adversely affects a child's educational performance

Other Health Disabilities

Educational Implications:

Students with Other Health Disabilities may be faced with fatigue, mobility issues, attention, coordination difficulties, muscle weakness, frequent absences or tardies, stamina, or inability to concentrate.

Students with diagnosed ADHD have deficits in the areas of executive functioning; ability to process information, make decisions and solve problems and intellectual functioning.

Other Health Disabilities

Common teaching methods/instructional strategies:

- post a schedule that explains each activity and when it is due
- have clearly defined goals and expectations
- allow extra time for completing assignments or tests
- post objectives for achieving the goal
- simplify and/or break down the steps of a larger assignment
- teach students how to organize their materials.
- assign preferential seating.

Autism Spectrum Disorder

Definition:

- A serious developmental disorder that impairs the ability to communicate and interact.

Autism Spectrum Disorder

Educational Implications:

- Communication may be delayed
- Language development may be slow and atypical
- Difficulty in initiating and sustaining conversation
- Difficulty maintaining eye contact and respecting personal space
- May seek attention or avoid social contact

Autism Spectrum Disorder

Educational Implications:

- May have difficulty responding to new situations
- May have self-stimulating behaviors
- May be sensitive or non-reactive to sounds and touch
- Aggressive behaviors may be present

Autism Spectrum Disorder

Common Teaching Methods:

1. **Discrete Trial Teaching:** Each skill is broken down into small steps, and taught using prompts, which are gradually eliminated as the steps are mastered.
2. **Picture Exchange Communication System:** the student communicates a request, a thought, or anything that can be reasonably displayed or symbolized on a picture card.
3. **Pivotal Response Treatment:** Child directed intervention that focuses on pivotal areas of a child's development versus targeting individual behaviors.

Autism Spectrum Disorder

Accommodations:

- Provide adequate notice for any changes in schedule.
- Identify distractions and take steps to minimize them.
- Give directions that are clear and concise, using literal language.
- Break assignments into small sections or provide specific steps for completing a larger assignment.

Autism Spectrum Disorder

Accommodations:

- Incorporate pictures, images, and other visual aids when teaching vocabulary words and abstract concepts.
- Consider sensory sensitivities when determining where the child's desk should be placed.
- Incorporate a student's special interest in lessons.

Emotional Behavior Disorder

Definition:

- A condition exhibiting one or more of the following characteristics over a long period of time and to a marked degree that adversely affects a child's educational performance.
 - inability to build or maintain satisfactory interpersonal relationships with peers and adults.
 - inappropriate types of behavior or feelings under normal circumstances
 - general pervasive mood of unhappiness or depression
 - tendency to develop physical symptoms or fears associated with personal or school problems.

Emotional Behavior Disorder

Educational Implications:

- Typically have the lowest grade point average of students in all disability categories
- Majority of EBD students fail their yearly grade level competency examinations
- High rate of absenteeism
- Lower rates of graduation than students in other disability categories
- the combination of social and academic difficulty result in classroom issues such as disruptive and off task behavior.

Emotional Behavior Disorder

Accommodations:

- clearly post rules
- stay consistent in expectations
- set limits and boundaries
- use behavior contracts
- use a highly structured environment
- develop a cue word for the child to note inappropriate behavior

Developmental Cognitive Disability

Definition:

- A condition that results in intellectual functioning significantly below average and is associated with concurrent deficits in adaptive behavior.

Developmental Cognitive Disability

Educational Implications:

- Typically demonstrate delays in cognitive, social, and adaptive behavior skills within typical classroom settings.
- Limitations in intellectual functioning—memory recall, task and skill generalization, tendency towards low motivation and learned helplessness.

Developmental Cognitive Disability

Common teaching methods:

Direct instruction in skills such as independent living skills, self-care, community awareness, leisure activities and vocational training.

- teach one concept/skill at a time
- teach one step at a time
- teach in small groups or one to one
- provide multiple opportunities to practice skills in different settings.
- these students often require modifications and accommodations

Many accommodations
help *all* students
learn the information better!



Accommodations

Do not fundamentally change standards in terms of instructional level, content, or performance criteria.

Changes are made in order to provide equal access to learning and equal opportunity to demonstrate what is known

Grading is the same!

FAIR

***FAIR isn't about everybody getting
the same thing.....***

***FAIR is about everybody getting
what they **NEED** in order to be
SUCCESSFUL!***

Ask yourself...

- Is my main objective to teach ALL students in my classroom?
- Do I want ALL students to learn some content from this class?
- How will accommodations benefit not only the special education students in my class, but other disadvantaged and at-risk students as well?



QUESTIONS?

