

Ten Tips for General Educators

With collaboration and focused efforts, all students can actively participate in the classroom.



Promote socialization!

Seat students with students! Adults sitting with students may discourage peer interactions. Encourage paraeducators or classroom assistants to sit off to the side or away from students.

Share your lessons and plans.

You are not alone. When you share your teaching plans, the special education team can modify the content to meet the needs of students with disabilities.



Speak directly to students!

Resist temptations to talk through paraeducators who accompany students. Direct greetings, explanations and questions to the student.



Vary your instructional methods!

Make learning an active experience for ALL students. Create cooperative learning groups and encourage partner learning. Provide a variety of resource materials, workshop formats, and experiential activities. Have students demonstrate knowledge in a variety of ways.



Get to know your students.

Greet students as they enter the classroom. Saying hello teaches social and communication skills. Ask about their home, pets, or social life.



Ask content questions daily.

When students respond to content questions they are practicing social and communication skills as well as learning the content. Your informal assessments and teaching observations can provide useful insights into possible curriculum modifications.



Expect success!

Expect ALL students to learn and participate in your classroom. Tell students what you expect. Adjust the demands of activities or assignments to match the student's abilities.



Establish learning goals!

Work with the special education team to clarify learning goals for students with IEP's. Check to see that your students are continually working toward their learning objectives. Assess student knowledge no matter their level of ability.



Treat students equally!

Maintain behavior expectations and disciplinary methods for ALL students in your classroom. Share your expectations with other adults.



Share ideas and feelings!

Express your fears and opinions. Phrase concerns in specific terms. Instead of saying, "I don't think this student belongs here!" Try, "How can I make Shakespeare meaningful for this student?"

