Alyssa Foster

Exceptional Student

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Philosophy of Special Education

I believe that every child should have an equal opportunity to learn to the best of their abilities. Whether these children have disabilities or not, they each deserve the chance to learn like any other child in the schooling systems. If each child is given the same opportunities and resources, they should strive like their peers. Their individual progress may take longer depending on their disabilities when in comparison to their peers, but they will learn just the same. It is essential that each child who has a disability be placed in the least restrictive environment so that they successfully gain life skills and social cues from individuals who lack having disabilities. The IDEA sets out a mission that all children with disabilities and or special needs be put in the least restricted environment. This simply means that if a child can function properly in the regular classroom and learn efficiently, then they should spend most of their day there with their peers. When educating children with disabilities this rule is very important because you cannot isolate these students from their regular classroom simply because they learn differently and at a different rate. Sometimes people think it is okay for students with disabilities to be sent out of their regular classroom to other areas within the school because they are different and have diverse needs. This is not correct and although some students with disabilities have a different least restrictive environment than that of the regular classroom, it is important to give them as much time as possible in their regular classroom. Children with special needs often have troubles with paying attention to directions and understanding the material at hand. When in a large classroom with other students, children with disabilities tend to get side tracked and lost in translation of what their teacher wants. Special needs students also have difficulties with reading, mathematical skills, and troubles with social skills. As an educator I would make sure to accommodate these students by providing study guides, reducing the multiple-choice options to three options, provide a written copy of the notes, and I will also give the option to have the test read aloud to any student with a disability. When having the role as the special education teacher it is important to have compassion and understanding towards all students that are in your care. It is also crucial that you understand each disability that a child can have when coming to your classroom. Children can often feel defeated when they do not understand material and it is the special education teacher’s duty to help them fully understand what is at hand. When educating students in the regular classroom, the role of the regular education teacher is also important. As one of the main persons that the students with disabilities see day-to-day, it is also important for the regular education teacher to understand the obstacles these students face. The regular education teacher must be able to juggle the needs of her regular students with the needs of her students with disabilities. When educating students with disabilities and teaching a special education classroom or even teaching in the regular classroom, the least restrictive environment is very crucial in the advancement of the students. In my opinion, the most important thing to consider when teaching students with disabilities is that they deserve the equal opportunity to learn along-side with their peers.