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Philosophy of Special Education

They are able

It is easy to underestimate children that have disabilities. However, they are able. They are able to do things that we could never imagine. They are able to face everyday and live a life just like we do. They are able to learn things and do things in a different way that is unfamiliar to others. Being a child with a disability is nothing to be ashamed of or to look down upon. Those children are just as able to do things as others without disabilities. As a teacher I know and believe that each child that walks through my doors will succeed in life. Don't judge a book by its cover, those children are able!

Who can learn?

I believe that all students can learn. No matter what disability a child might have they are still capable to learn. I do think that many times children with disabilities must try harder than others, but they can still reach their goals. Many people say, "You can do anything you set your mind to." I think that applies in this situation. If a child wants to learn they won't let anything stop them. As a teacher I want to see all of my students learn things daily. A disability just means they might need to learn things in a different way or on a different time scale. It is my job to evaluate each student and present things in a way that all can understand and learn from.

IDEA and Section 504:

Based on Section 504 of the children with disabilities act it is required that all children with disabilities have equal access to education. They are also intitled to receive modifications is

needed. As a teacher it is my job to make sure this happens for the students in my class. I don't ever want to have students miss out on opportunities to learn. IDEA also focusses on the concept of getting the appropriate free public education for those with disabilities. No matter the disability they are able to receive an education.

### Obstacles:

Students with disabilities will face a variety of obstacles. Most will have problems focusing, understanding, and moving at the same pace of the class. As the teacher I will be sure to evaluate the best way to help each student learn. Most times it will mean spending more time with that student understanding things. It might also mean making things interesting for that student to where they want to be learning. There are many ways that I can help each student individually and get the parent involved to help them learn more at home. They are able to learn just as much as others!

### Something to consider:

I think that one of the biggest things required for educations dealing with students with disabilities is flexibility. Teachers need to be able to adjust to students in a way where they learn the best. Each student with disabilities will be different in many ways. As a teacher you have to be flexible in how you change teaching patterns and techniques to be specific for each child. When selecting where a child with disabilities should go to for an education the flexibility of the teacher is one thing I would be sure to consider.

### The role of teachers:

One of the most important things a special education teacher is to do is to make modifications and accommodations. The special education teacher is meant to have more of a one on one relationship with students. It is their job to make sure all of their needs are met. Special education teachers are trained and know certain things to look out for. That is why I believe their most important role is knowing and making modifications and adjustments where it is needed in the children's education. A big thing that would be important to me as a classroom teacher would be making every student feel comfortable and included. I don't ever want a child with disabilities to feel unwelcomed in my classroom. I will always find ways to include them. As a teacher you need to find ways to make them feel important to the class by giving them certain jobs to take responsibility of. School is a place where every student should find friends and grow. As a teacher it is very important your classroom is a place where every student is able to do that.

No matter what obstacles a child has in front of them they are able to reach their goals. A disability doesn't separate them from their future, it just reroutes them! These children are amazing and have so much potential. As a teacher I cannot wait to see where all of the students I am able to educate end up in life. Everyone has a purpose and I know that each student can reach that!

#### References

“IDEA.” Office of the Under Secretary. Accessed June 24, 2018 <https://sites.ed.gov/idea/about-idea/>