

## Philosophy of Special Education

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All kids should be treated equally and with respect. No kid should feel out of place and uncomfortable. It is important as teachers to create a fun and safe learning environment. It is also important to make all kids feel included no matter what. As a teacher I hope to make my students whether they have special needs or not feel like they are individually important. This is just the beginning of what kind of teacher I want to be. Students with special needs are important and deserve the same as everyone else. I hope to do that when I become a teacher.

Every student is unique in their own. Does that mean one can learn better than the other? The answer to that is no. Some might learn faster than others, but everyone can learn. Students with disabilities can learn and have just as much right to learn as anybody else. Yes, it could take them a little longer to comprehend concepts, but they still can learn. The impact of IDEA and Section 504 on the education of students with disabilities has been tremendous. First, IDEA has opened education so much for students with disabilities. It allows students with visual, hearing, mental, emotional, and so many more the right to an equal and good education that provides them with services to help them learn. So many children with disabilities have gotten the chance to a good education who may not have before. Second, Section 504 may not be a federal grant, but it does do so much too. This states that no child should be excluded, because of their handicap. It really has made people think about the words and voice they use when talking and helping students with disabilities. People have become more aware of how the words they use and what they do show a lot. Students are no longer excluded and must be included. This is so important, because students should have the chance to be able to participate in whatever they

want without worry or hesitation. Overall, all students with disabilities are capable of learning and the two things have really done a lot of good.

Students with disabilities face many obstacles and as a teacher I want them to be comfortable asking me for help. Some of these obstacles include: stereotypes, lack of social skills, not understanding what is being taught, labeling, negative teachers, and so many more. Students with disabilities have enough on their plate as it is and do not need any of the extra added stress that these things can bring. These are just a few of the obstacles they can face in a day and there are so many more. When working on an assignment, students with disabilities sometimes become frustrated. To help with this I could implement some instructional strategies to relieve the stress and frustration. I might have them form groups to work together and find and answer, have them explain to me what they need help on, or demonstrate. To calm them I could play music or allow them to do something they like. These are just a few examples of strategies I would use.

There are many thing things that go into deciding in what setting a student with disabilities should learn. To me, the most important would be where they are going to get the best education possible. Yes, their age, disability, parents, and other things are important too, but they are not the most important. The special education teacher plays a big role in the student's life. They are not only there as a teacher, but even sometimes as a comforter. The most important role a special education teacher can play is to individualize the student and make them feel important. In a regular classroom of twenty-five it might be hard for the teacher to focus solely on what one child needs. Though a special education teacher can do this.

As a teacher in a regular classroom, I too play a role in the student's life. My role is a little different, but just as important. My role is to work with the special education teacher and find what is best for the student. Then it is my role to implement the strategies we have found work

best for the student and use them when I am teaching. This way he can learn like all the other students. My role is to be the facilitator of learning and a help to all students. I am there to guide my students and explain things as needed. In terms of my students with special needs I do all these things and then some. I might explain things a little more in depth or give multiple ways of doing a problem. Though I never show my other students why I am doing that. My role is to give the student an equal opportunity of learning. Being a teacher might be hard sometimes, but I cannot wait to see my students succeed.

Overall, teaching is all about the students. No matter the circumstance or disability I am there to give them a good education. In my class, I hope to never single a student out or make them feel uncomfortable. My job is to provide a safe environment and I hope to do that. A teacher needs to be kind, patient, and willing to help. These are traits I hope to live out for as long as I am a teacher. These are my thoughts on what a teacher is and their role on special education.