

Molly James

Philosophy of Special Education

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### I Believe

There is always a judgement when it comes to Special Needs children. Some people think that they are some children that you just simply cannot teach. I believe that people with that mindset are wrong... I believe that every child can learn, no matter the disability. Every child should have the opportunity to get an education, and every child deserves a teacher that cares about their education. Impacts on these students can affect the way they learn, but with the belief and motivation by teachers, we can help these students progress in their education.

I think that educating exceptional children is a challenge, but it is possible. Anyone can learn, and this includes those with disabilities. Just because a child is handicap, impaired, has a disability, or is an exceptional child, does not mean that they do not have the ability to learn something. These children might need to be taught differently than of a general education classroom, but those with disabilities have different forms of education to where they can learn just like a regular student. There are 6.4 million children and youth with disabilities that receive special education services in one school year. This means that there are 6.4 million children and youth that have disabilities that have **learned**/received an education in one year.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is a federal law that governs all special education services. It also provides some funding to local and state education agencies to guarantee special education and related services to those children that meet the criteria for eligibility in a number on distinct categories of disability. 5.5 million students receive special

education and related services and are protected by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Some of these students with disabilities that do not receive services under the IDEA receive services under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. This Section is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination on people with disabilities in programs that receive federal financial assistance. The IDEA and Section 504 both work together to protect children and adults with disabilities from unfair treatment and exclusion. They completely changed education in the United States. This impacted those with disabilities and their families drastically because in the past, children with disabilities were denied access to certain educational programs, or they received special education in segregated settings. One of the principles of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act is the Zero Reject. This states that schools must educate all children with disabilities. No child may be excluded from a free public education, regardless of the disability and its severity.

Students with disabilities face many different obstacles that impact their learning. Some of the obstacles that they can face are a lack of individualization, negative attitudes towards them, and physical impairments. When a child is put into a different program or classroom as other students, they can struggle with thinking bad about themselves. This also does not help when regular students bully or have negative attitudes towards the exceptional students. Some of these students with disabilities are handicap and require some assistance with things. As a teacher, I could employ different techniques to help these children overcome these difficulties. Motivation is key to help these students. Children with disabilities need to be pushed and motivated just as any other student would. Helping these students in their learning to be confident and to love who they are is very important. No child should feel as if they are not as important. When a student has a physical impairment that impacts their learning, I will make

sure that I do everything possible to overcome the challenge. This could be a handicap where the student is in a wheelchair, blind, deaf, has paralysis, etc. It is not fair to them to not receive the best instructional strategies just because of a difficulty that the students have no say in.

When considering where students with disabilities should receive their education, it is vital to think about what is best for that particular student. Whatever impacts their education the best is the place where they should receive their education. This could include a special education classroom, a general education classroom, or self-contained programs. I think that when considering where a student should receive their education, I would consider the severity of their disability first. Depending of the disability of the child, this could take a few options out on where they should get their education. It all comes down to putting the child in the best classroom for them that would best impact their education positively.

The most important role performed by the special education teacher is to provide support and instruction to the exceptional classroom. By doing this, the teacher should encourage participation of the students. Other roles that should be performed by the special education teacher include organization, even temper, calming nature, and highly intuitive skills. With all of these roles, a teacher will be able to provide support and positive instruction to his/her classroom.

In the general education classroom, the regular education teacher needs to have the role of including all students when providing instruction in a classroom that has students with disabilities. Excluding the students with the disabilities in a regular classroom is not fair to that student. Motivating and evaluating all students as well as meeting with the special education teacher to assist the development of a support plan for the student with disabilities is another role

of the regular education teachers. Keeping the special education teacher informed on the performance of these students is a very important role.

I believe every child can learn, no matter the disability, handicap, or impairment. As a future teacher, I plan on being supportive and encouraging to those students with disabilities. It is important as an educator to motivate these students just as any other student, because they deserve to learn just like the other children. IDEA, and section 504 have changed the way exceptional students receive their education. The obstacles these students face provide difficulties, but with regular and special education teachers, these students can overcome these obstacles and grow in their learning.

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**Reference Page:**

#1 Exceptional Children, and Introduction to Education book. Chapter 1, Pages 3,4,5, 10, 11

#2 <http://www.ldonline.org/article/6086/>

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#4 <http://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/main-barriers-education-students-disabilities-fact-sheet>

#5 <http://www.projectidealonline.org/v/specific-roles-general-educators/>