

Special Education Philosophy

As a regular education teacher, it will be my responsibility to provide the necessary support for the special education students in my classroom. I will have to consult and communicate with the special education teachers as well as the student's parents regarding the progress being made in my classroom. With more and more schools participating in inclusion, it is important for all teachers to be educated regarding different disabilities and special education laws. Regular education teachers should know about the special education laws because they will be participating in IEP meetings, and they should have the necessary background in order to offer helpful insights at these meetings.

I view all my students as exceptional learners. All students have strengths and weaknesses that differ from one another. Most importantly, I feel that every child has the potential to actively learn. It is important for teachers to remember that not all students learn in the same manner or at the same speed. It is also important for teachers to keep in mind that some students need more support and resources than others.

I think that inclusion helps both students with and without disabilities. It helps students with disabilities feel like they are part of the larger community instead of being segregated. It also helps students without disabilities because these students can interact and realize that there are students who may look and act different, but they are still students who have feelings. Some students should definitely be included in regular education classrooms because they can function at an equal or higher level than their peers. I think that if special education students can handle being in a regular education setting without disrupting the learning process of other students then they should be included. Some students may be able to handle the regular education classroom only with the help of a resource teacher, and I think that students should receive whatever support they need to be successful and reach their full potential.

It is crucial for parents to have their child assessed if they believe or the school and teachers have documented that the child may have a disability. Many parents may only view the downside and all the stigmas associated with special education in public schools; they need to forget about the stigmas and focus on getting their child the support that puts their child in a stimulating learning environment. It is essential that parents be educated about the disability their child has. Also, parents should keep the communication lines open with both the special education teachers and the regular education teachers. It is important for everyone to work together, so they student can benefit from all the supports he or she is receiving.

If a child is labeled as receiving special education, it is often viewed as a weakness. I do not feel this should be the case. Students receiving special education are still capable of greatness, and with the necessary supports they can achieve such greatness. All students learn differently, and this makes education and teaching exciting. As a regular education teacher, I look forward to seeing what students walk through my door on the first day of school. I never know what types of learners I will receive, and this challenge makes being a teacher worthwhile. I hope that I can make a difference in the lives of my students on their road to success.