

Standard 8

Educators contribute to the profession

Autistic Spectrum Disorder Resource for Teachers

When I started working as a Special Education Assistant, I had my Bachelor of Arts. I was a History Major and a Kinesiology Minor. When I worked as a on-call SEA, I was not provided with student profiles. I was not informed of student disabilities or learning strategies that would worked for each individual student. Instead I dedicated each night after school researching their disability and strategies that could help them learn.

Later in life, I started working for a foster home with four teenage boys. All of the boys had previously come from unstable homes, they had learning disabilities and behavioural challenges. Sometimes I would get a new foster child for a short period of time and was not told his history or what he had been diagnosed with. I knew that something was wrong and did the best that I could to create a safe living environment and to meet each individuals needs

Completing a Special Needs course was very important to me. I come away from this course with ability to initiate, implement and self-assess special needs learners as well as learning strategies that would benefit students of all learning abilities. I come away from this course with the ability to plan and manage individual learning needs and the confidence to make future contributions in educational communities.



Some main concepts that I have learned from this course include:

- Create an inclusive classroom for ALL learners
- Develop classroom management strategies that have potential to meet the majority of student needs
- Build a safe learning environment by treating students with respect and teaching students to care for their peers. Antecedents trigger behaviour and lead to consequences.
- Consider cognitive, emotional and social development of students with learning differences
- Include parents, guardians and colleague when developing learning challenges
- Continue inquiry projects throughout teaching career
- Make sure the basic needs are met before starting lesson plans.
- There are many organizations that provide current information on many different topics related to teaching. They are a great place to start and a great resource to send parents to.
- Intrinsic motivation and self-directed problem solving can help all students and promotes autonomy

Specifically my inquiry on Autism lead me understand learning disabilities in depth. I learned that there are a lot of resources available to help understand Autism. I learned teaching strategies that can be helpful for all students. I learned teachers can access professional resources if they require collaboration.