

# Special Needs Learners



## Standards:

This course aligns to the INTASC Standards including Learner Development, Learning Differences, Learning Environments, Application of Content, Planning for Instruction and Instructional Strategies.

It also aligns to the McRel Teacher Evaluation Standards including Teacher Leadership, Diverse Learners, Teachers Know Content and Teachers Facilitate Learning.

As teachers, we all face situations where we accommodate students with special needs in our classrooms. This integrated course is designed to help teachers encourage and maximize each child's potential.

Terms like autism, ADHD, learning disability, and gifted learners are being constantly used. As an educator, how can you enhance their learning ability?

This course has three parts, each one dedicating to a particular special population: Autism, ADHD, and Gifted Learners. Along with enhancing an educator's skills, the course is filled with ideas and suggestions that promote your confidence in handling children of differing abilities.



Official Transcript:  
1 Semester Credit



100% Online



Quizzes and  
Course Action Plan



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# Special Needs Learners

## Course Outline

### SECTION A: Introduction to Autism

#### LESSON 1: Overview

- Definition
- Symptoms and other similar conditions
- Therapies
- Labeling neurodevelopmental disorders
- The brain in Autism Spectrum Disorder

#### LESSON 2: Social Skills in ASD

- Social skills and related challenges.
- Theory of the mind
- Teaching non-verbal learners
- Verbal processing, echolalia, perseveration, and scripting
- Abstract language, eye contact, empathy, spatial terms, and pronouns

#### LESSON 3: Expressions of Autism

- Sensory hyposensitivity and hypersensitivity
- Splintered development, perseveration, and stress
- Part-to-whole or whole-to-part thinking
- The lack of social motivation and imagination in children with ASD
- Extraordinary abilities

#### LESSON 4: ASD in School

- Neurological differences in children with ASD
- Central Coherence Theory
- Classroom physical environment
- Teaching materials and strategies
- Behavior management strategies
- Working with parents and team

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## *Course Outline*

### SECTION B: Differentiation for Gifted Learners in the Classroom

#### LESSON 1: Characteristics

- Who gifted learners are
- Types of gifted learners, including academic, linguistic, and artistic learners
- Qualities of gifted learners

#### LESSON 2: Personal, Social and Cognitive Needs

- The personal, social and intellectual needs of gifted learners
- Differentiation and how it can be implemented, including aspects process and assessment
- Independent learning and curriculum compacting for gifted learners

#### LESSON 3: Special Populations

- Twice exceptional students and how they require additional support
- Indicators of twice exceptionality and strategies that can be used to teach this special population

#### LESSON 4: Practical Strategies

- Several practical strategies that can be used while working with gifted learners and special populations
- Pre-assessment in teaching gifted learners
- Strategies such as H.O.T.S, Morning Minute, Learning contracts and tiered instruction

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## Course Outline

### SECTION C: Understanding ADHD

#### LESSON 1: Introduction

- Definition of and challenges of ADHD
- Causes of ADHD
- Strengths of students with ADHD
- Prognosis and treatment of ADHD

#### LESSON 2: Core Issues in ADHD

- The ADHD brain and how the changes in the brain cause deficits
- Challenges in ADHD and strategies that may be used to overcome them, especially in the areas of attention, hyperactivity, and impulsivity
- Strategies that are useful in working with students with ADHD including instruction sheets, classroom seating, movement breaks, and rules
- Dealing with anger and addictive behavior in students with ADHD

#### LESSON 3: Associated Issues in ADHD

- Issues seen in ADHD, including issues in organization, motivation and social skills
- How teachers may help students to organize their schoolwork and complete it
- How to motivate students with ADHD
- How to support students with ADHD so they can build positive friendships

#### LESSON 4: Accommodations

- Classroom accommodations that can help a student with ADHD learn and perform well
- Modified seating and lighting
- How a classroom schedule and organization can support learning
- Adapting homework, visual aids, and assessments in order to help a child with ADHD cope with the curriculum

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