

Assistive Communication for Every Classroom



Standards:

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

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

Students with disabilities face many communication challenges. Combined with possible physical and cognitive disabilities, learning can be compromised. As teachers, it is important to help students with disabilities overcome difficulties to attain and maximize potential in the classroom.

In this course, teachers are introduced to available assistive communication techniques and tools. Teachers gain an understanding of high-tech and low-tech assistive devices and learn how to incorporate them into a classroom. The tools, strategies, and templates provided in this course help teachers create an inclusive classroom and positive learning environment for students with disabilities.



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Assistive Communication for Every Classroom

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Introduction

- Defining Assistive Communication and exploring its benefits and function
- Identifying the laws advocating for and supporting the use of Assistive Technology
- Understanding Assistive Communication, its purpose, and the three types of Assistive Communication devices used in the classroom
- Identifying the four categories of Assistive Communication Technologies

LESSON 2: Low-Tech Strategies for Communication

- Exploring the six phases of the Picture Exchange Communication System method and its application
- Understanding American Sign Language and its use in the classroom
- Practical application of the Picture Exchange Communication board and Topic rings/wallets in the classroom
- Identifying the four main types of Communication cards effective in the classroom

LESSON 3: High-Tech Strategies for Communication

- Exploring the different high-tech strategies and their uses for improving communication and learning in the classroom
- Computer modifications and adaptations enabling students with disabilities to achieve academic excellence
- Practical application of the devices with regard to Physical, Visual, Communication and Learning disabilities
- Identifying the smartphone applications that can enable communication

LESSON 4: Implementing Assistive and Alternative Communication in Classrooms

- Understanding the role of the teacher and the Assistive Communication team with regard to Assistive and Alternative communication
- Exploring the process of implementation and classroom observations of Assistive and Alternative Communication in the classrooms
- Defining the Multi-modal approach to communication and the three Levels of communication
- Exploring the strategies aiding and facilitating communication, group work, assessment, and homework



5 Hours
of Learning



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