

# **Disability Awareness**

**Susquehanna Community School District  
Susquehanna, Pennsylvania**

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# Disability Categories

# Autism

A developmental disorder that involves abnormal development and function of the brain.

# Autism

## Characteristics

- Repetitive behaviors
- Social deficits
- Language impairment
- Unusual response to sensory input

## Strategies

- Modeling
- Prompting
- Social narratives
- Time delay
- Reinforcement
- Peer mediated instruction

# Specific Learning Disability

A disorder in one of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or in using language that may manifest itself as an imperfect ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell, or to do mathematical calculations

# Specific Learning Disability

## Characteristics

- Discrepancy between a child's ability and achievement levels
- Varies based on area of disability

## Strategies

- Concrete resources
- Teach to all learning styles
- Peer tutoring
- Model
- Provide feedback
- Encourage higher level thinking

# Speech or Language Impairment

A communication disorder such as stuttering, impaired articulation, language impairment, or voice impairment that adversely affects a child's educational performance.

# Speech and Language Impairment

## Characteristics

- Disruption of the flow of speech
- Variance in pitch, loudness, resonance, or quality of voice
- Improper use of language

## Strategies

- Phonological skills
- Vocabulary acquisition
- Practice

# Other Health Impairment

Having limited strength, vitality, or alertness with respect to the educational environment that is due to a chronic or acute health problem and adversely affects a child's educational performance

# Other Health Impairment

## Characteristics

- Varies greatly dependent on the child's classification or diagnosis

## Strategies

- Varies greatly dependent on the child's classification or diagnosis

# Emotional Disturbance

A condition exhibiting one or more characteristic over a long period of time:

- inability to learn
- inability to build or maintain relationships
- inappropriate behaviors or feelings under normal circumstances
- general pervasive mood of unhappiness or depression
- tendency to develop physical symptoms of fear

# Emotional Disturbance

## Characteristics

- Aggression
- Hyperactivity
- Withdrawn

## Strategies

- Behavioral Intervention Plan
- Replacement behaviors
- Non-reactive language
- Provide choices
- Clear, concise directions
- Reward positive behavior

# Intellectual Disability

A disability characterized by significant limitations in intellectual functioning and adaptive behavior.

# Intellectual Disability

## Characteristics

- Limitations in thinking and understanding
- Deficits in self-care, social skills, and communication
- Deficits in self-determination, choice making, problem solving, goal setting

## Strategies

- One concept or skill
- Small group instruction
- Skill generalization
- Social skills instruction
- Physical and verbal prompting
- Assistive technology

# Traumatic Brain Injury

An acquired injury to the brain caused by an external physical force, resulting in total or partial functional disability or psychosocial impairment

# Traumatic Brain Injury

## Characteristics

- Memory difficulties
- Problems concentrating
- Struggles to relate to peers

## Strategies

- Clear, concise directions
- Break tasks into smaller parts
- Verbal praise
- Provide practice
- Eye contact or name student
- Wait time

# Hearing Impairment

A hearing loss below 90  
decibels

# Hearing Impairment

## Characteristics

- Communication difficulties
- Speech delays
- May not hear directions or need the volume turned up on devices
- Sensitivity to sound

## Strategies

- Clear, concise directions
- Use of visuals
- Repeat comments or questions of peers
- Handouts prior to class
- Provide support for written expression

# Deafness

A hearing impairment that limits a child's ability to process language input with or without assistance (hearing aid, amplification, etc)

# Deafness

## Characteristics

- May appear uninterested in lesson
- Communication difficulties; ASL
- May require an interpreter

## Strategies

- Visual activities
- Kinesthetic activities
- Large group instruction
- Extra practice with predictions
- Print, gestures, and movement
- Make connections to visual stimuli

# Visual Impairment

An impairment in vision that,  
even with correction, adversely  
affects a child's educational  
performance

# Visual Impairment

## Characteristics

- Crossed eyes, turned out eyes, eyes that flutter, eyes that do not focus
- Clumsiness
- Poor hand-eye coordination

## Strategies

- Audio presentations
- Facilitate independence
- Address peers by name
- Peer support
- Safe environment

# Deaf - Blindness

The combination of simultaneous hearing and visual impairments which prevent a student from participating in either hearing or visual supports

# Deaf-Blindness

## Characteristics

- Require alternative communication
- Experiences limited to touch, taste, smell
- Relationships with community and family members is critical

## Strategies

- Small group or individual instruction
- Constantly active
- Safe environment
- Language development and coping
- Develop bonds and facilitate interactions

# Multiple Disabilities

Disabilities that occur  
simultaneously that cause  
severe educational needs

# Multiple Disabilities

## Characteristics

- Various combinations of disabilities
- Challenges with mobility or assistance in daily living skills

## Strategies

- Augmentative communication devices
- Related services
- Peer tutoring
- Practice and reinforce
- Encourage independence
- Provide confidence building feedback to peers

# Orthopedic Impairment

A physical impairment that  
impacts a child's educational  
performance

# Orthopedic Impairment

## Characteristics

- Typically a physical impairment that impacts education
- Medical diagnosis is common

## Strategies

- Accessible seating
- Adapted PE and/or Occupational Therapy
- Awareness of medical limitations
- Modified writing equipment or assignments

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# Inequality

A difference in size,  
degree, circumstance, etc.

## Discrimination:

- Age
  - Disability
  - Compensation
  - Genetics
  - National Origin
  - Race
  - Religion
  - Gender
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# ABLEiism

discrimination in favor of able bodied people

# Examples of ABLEism

Ableism is my daughter's school putting her in the highest level math class, because she tests well, and then taking away her "Friday Fun" and recess every day because she wasn't able to slog through 10-15 pages of math worksheets every night due to her ADHD. Basically making sure she was a failure no matter what.

Ableism is the guy I dated in college, who was completely deaf / hard of hearing, not being allowed to use ASL to fulfill his secondary language requirement to graduate. So for two years he had to spend several hours a week in the language lab, hooked up to headphones, to listen to spoken German. He's *deaf*.. (He did it and they let him graduate.)