



Educational
resources

8 Top Tips

for teaching children
with disabilities in
mainstream education

Disability Data in Schools:
Testing the Child Functioning Module –
Teacher Version (CFM-TV) in Emergencies
and Protracted Crises

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Tip

1



Promote Inclusive Seating Arrangements

Promote group or u shaped seating to facilitate better interaction and more space for demonstrations and role plays etc.

Group seating arrangements should be used to help children with and without disabilities to learn together and support one another. It is also a more effective way of teaching and promoting debate and discussion.

There should be space for wheelchairs to move around.

Tip

2



Communicate effectively with all children

Teachers should make sure all students understand, by using clear sentences, at a slow speed, and emphasis key words using gestures and pictures or symbols.

Children with visual, hearing or communication impairments should sit near the front and should be able to see the teachers' face when she/ he is speaking.

Teachers should smile and offer multiple choice answers for students who find it difficult to speak in class.

Tip

3



Set up buddy systems and child-to-child support

Child-to-child approaches include “buddy systems” (e.g. helping carry bags), “circle of friends” (supported friendship groups) or “peer tutoring” in class. (e.g. a designated child explaining tasks again in a simple way)

Teachers help decide which children are best suited to the different roles. The children need to have the attitude to help and not become mini teachers!

Children who are buddies or tutors should also be acknowledged for their efforts with special certificates or simply praise from the teachers.

Tip

4



Use good teaching strategies

Be aware of the different ways children learn (e.g. visual, tactile, kinaesthetic etc)

Child-centred teachers use active teaching methods where children are involved in finding out the answers on their own or in groups.

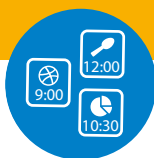
Avoid using rote learning and dictation.

Fun and active lessons help children learn and engage children with learning difficulties or attention problems.

Tip

5

Create Accessible and Inclusive Classrooms



Install ramps, handrails, lower blackboards, large windows for light, accessible toilets and play areas, and tactile edging on steps.

Classrooms should be child-friendly, and ideally a resource room should be available within the school for small groups, specialist support or time for relaxation.

Visual supports in the classroom can help all children follow routines better.

Tip

6

Develop inclusive teaching and learning materials



Parents, teachers and students can help make teaching and learning materials in the resource room or elsewhere in school.

Large print or tactile flash cards, use of colour coding, visual supports such as visual timetables or reward charts can help children with disabilities.

The more concrete learning materials are in the classroom, the easier it is to learn.



Tip

7



Work with parents and the community

Parents and community groups need to be involved in changing attitudes in society, and reducing stigma so that children with disabilities are not bullied or isolated when in school.

Teachers and parents should work together to help everyone understand the truths and myths around disability.

PTAs (parent teacher associations) should be trained on inclusive education issues and be fully inclusive!

Tip

8



Differentiate teaching but don't use a different curriculum

Teachers don't need to use a separate curriculum for children with disabilities.

The same topic should be taught to all children, but the individual tasks after the main plenary part of the lesson should be tailored according to needs.

Some children may be asked to write two paragraphs, whereas other may be asked to write 2 –3 sentences.

If the child can't yet write they could sort words into the correct order to make a sentence about the topic, or match words to pictures about the same theme. Group activities could also be given and different children could have different roles depending on their abilities.



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