

**Intervention Needs
for Exceptional
Populations**



*Counseling 448:
Advocacy and Interventions for Exceptional Children:
Interventions Mandated by Public Law
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Exceptional Children



- Exceptional children deviate from their peers in physical appearance, learning abilities, or behavior. They may be exceptionally gifted or exceptionally limited in their ability to learn or function in life.
- www.pen.k12.va.us
- www.ed.gov



Public Law

- Education for All Handicapped Children Act, Public Law 94-142; and Public Law 101-476 (IDEA) All handicapped children shall receive free educational experiences designed to meet their needs.
- Children included are mentally retarded, learning disabled, emotional disturbed, physically handicapped and gifted children.

Parent Rights in the Education Process...

- Public Law 101-476 (IDEA) Defines the Rights of Children
- Your child is entitled to a free, appropriate public education
- You will be notified when the school wishes to evaluate *your* child
- You may request an evaluation
- The school must ask for "parent consent"
- You may obtain an independent evaluation

Parent Rights in the Education Process...

- You may request a reevaluation
- You must test in the child primary language
- You may review all of your child's records
- You must be informed of your rights
- You may participate in the development of the child's Individualized Educational Program (IEP)



Counselor Need:

- A basic knowledge of the disabling condition;
- General characteristics of a child with this exceptionality;
- The child's limitations;
- The child's strengths and potential; and
- The needs specific to the exceptional condition.

The U.S. Department of Education Designates Ten Specific Handicapping Conditions

- Learning Disabled
- Speech-impaired
- Mentally Retarded
- Emotionally Disturbed
- Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Multi-handicapped
- Orthopedically handicapped
- Other Health Impaired
- Visually handicapped
- Deaf-blind



Children with Emotional or Behavior Disorders

Symptoms:

- Inability to learn that can't be explained by intellectual, sensory, or health factors; Difficulty developing and maintaining relationships;
- Demonstrating inappropriate responses to normal circumstances;
- Pervasive unhappiness or depression

Children who are ED or BD:

- Behaviors exhibited by these children include cruelty, fighting, extreme tantrums, disobedience, hyperactivity, impulsivity, social maladjustment, anxiety, low self-confidence, withdrawal, and low academic performance.
- S.E.D. = Seriously Emotionally Disturbed

Tasks of the counselor...

- Forming a counseling relationship that delineates responsibilities and limits;
- Working to change the child's image and expectations;
- Counseling to deal with feelings, behaviors, and teach social, emotional, and cognitive skills;
- Structuring environment, schedule, establishing rules, reinforcement and logical consequences for inappropriate behavior

Exceptionality: Learning Disabled Child

- "Specific learning disability" means a disorder in understanding or in using language which may manifest in an imperfect ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell, or do mathematical calculations.
- These children have often experienced failure, rejection, isolation, confusion, and worthlessness

Exceptionality: Learning Disabled Child

- LD children may have emotional problems due to feelings of failure and worthlessness. It's important to provide:
- Behavior modification techniques
- Relaxation training
- Encourage expression of pent-up feelings and self-doubt
- Activities to improve self-concept
- Learn social and cognitive skills

Exceptionality: Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

Symptoms of the disorder:

- over arousal, hyperactivity, impulsivity, and difficulty with delaying gratification, fidgeting, impulsive, unable to stay on task, focus attention or complete work inattention and distractibility;

Task for the Counselor: Techniques that seem to work

- Behavioral techniques that structure the environment, limit stimuli, and maintain a consistent schedule
- Cognitive-restructuring techniques to teach more positive ways of thinking and self-monitoring and increasing behavioral control
- Group counseling to teach more effective social skills and support and guidance for managing frustration

Exceptionality: The Mentally Retarded Child

- Mental retardation refers to significantly sub average intellectual functioning, 2 standard deviations below the mean @ I.Q. 50-70

Tasks for the Helping Professional...

- Vocational assessment
- Skills for self-sufficiency
- Behavior modification techniques for learning and improving behavior
- Token system or contingency contracting
- Teach independent living skills

Tasks of the Counselor Working with Any Type of Exceptional Child Might Include the Following:

- Understanding the specific exceptionality and the unique social, learning, or behavioral problems associated with it.
- Counseling to enhance self-concept
- Facilitating adjustment to exceptionality
- Helping the significant people understand the child's life

Tasks of the Counselor Working with Any Type of Exceptional Child Might Include the Following:

- Assist in the development of effective, independent living skills.
- Teaching personal and social skills.
- Assisting in education planning, needed aids and equipment for children. Counseling with parents and consulting with schools
- Developing working relationships with community agencies

Terms Counselors Should Know...

- Children with disabilities are those persons who are aged two to twenty-one who need special education
- Each school division shall provide free and appropriate education for students with disabilities

Terms Counselors Should Know...

- Alternative Assessment = Means assessment for children with disabilities who cannot participate in the state or division-wide assessment programs even with appropriate accommodations and modifications

Terms Counselors Should Know...

- Assistive technology device = any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified or customized that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of a child with a disability

Terms Counselors Should Know...

- Behavioral intervention plan = a plan that utilizes positive behavioral interventions and supports to address behaviors that interfere with the learning of students with disabilities or with the learning of others or behaviors that require disciplinary action.

Terms Counselors Should Know...

- Child Study Committee = a committee that enables school personnel and nonschool personnel to meet the needs of individual children who are having difficulty in the educational setting.
- The committee reviews existing data to make recommendations to meet the child's needs and reviews the results of recommendations

Terms Counselors Should Know...

- Due Process Hearing = Administrative procedure conducted by an impartial hearing officer to resolve disagreements regarding the identification, evaluation, educational placement and services, and the provision of a free and appropriate public education that arise between parents and LEA.

Terms Counselors Should Know...

- Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE) = An evaluation conducted by a qualified examiner who are not employed by the LEA responsible for educating the child.

Terms Counselors Should Know...

- Individualized Educational Program (IEP) means a written statement for a child with a disability that is developed, reviewed, and revised in a team meeting. The IEP specifies the individual educational needs of the child and what special education and related services are necessary to meet the needs.

Terms Counselors Should Know...

- Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) means that to the maximum extent appropriate children with disabilities are educated with children who are not disabled and that special classes,
- Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) means that to the maximum extent appropriate children with disabilities are educated with children who are not disabled and that special classes, separate schooling or removal from the regular classroom occurs only if the disability is so severe that he/she can not function in a regular classroom.

Terms Counselors Should Know...

Psychological Services:

- Administering psychological and educational tests
- Interpreting assessment results
- Integrating and interpreting information
- Managing a program of psychological services
- Assists developing positive behavioral intervention strategies
