

Intervention Needs for Exceptional Populations

Advocacy and Interventions for Exceptional Children: Interventions Mandated by Public Law

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

Public Law

Education for All Handicapped Children Act, Public Law 94-142; 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's 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)

Counseling...

A therapeutic relationship, a problem-solving process, a reeducation, a method for changing behavior, and helping children cope with developmental problems.

Counselors 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

Exceptionality: Gifted

Gifted and talented children possess or demonstrate high performance capability in areas such as intellectual, creative, specific academic, or leadership ability, or in the performing and visual arts and require services not ordinarily provided by the school

Counseling the Gifted

The need:

to recognize and accept one's abilities, interests, and limitations for adequate social relationships

to explore, discover and create for appropriate problem solving skills

to understand the attitudes of peers, teachers, and parents

The Task of the Counselor

- (1) To enhance learning opportunities;
- (2) To help children and significant others understand themselves; and
- (3) To guide children in developing good social relationships.

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.

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

LD children may have emotional problems due to feelings of failure and worthlessness. It is 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:

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

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 subaverage 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 (Cont'd.)...

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