

Special Schools

Schools catering for students with special educational needs due to severe learning difficulties, physical disabilities or behavioural problems are special schools. Special schools may be specifically designed, staffed and resourced to provide appropriate special education for children with additional needs. The students attending special schools generally do not attend any classes in mainstream schools.

The special schools provide individualized education that address to their specific needs. The student to teacher ratio is usually low, entirely depending upon the needs of the children. All the equipments and technological assistance required by the students of special needs are provided here.

The concept of special school is declining in the recent times as more and more children with special needs are being educated in the mainstream schools. However, there will always be some children whose learning needs cannot be appropriately met in a regular classroom setting. They would require specialized education and resources to provide the level of support they require.

There is an alternative called the special unit or special classroom, also called a self contained classroom. It is a separate room/rooms dedicated solely to the education of students with special needs with the larger school that even provide general education. These classrooms are typically staffed by specially trained teachers, who provide specific, individualized instruction to individuals and small groups of students with special needs.

The self-contained classrooms are located in a general education school where the students remain in the self contained classroom full time or students who are included in certain general education classes. At certain places a part time alternative that is appropriate for some students is called a resource room.

SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER

A special education teacher has students with varying learning, mental, physical and emotional disabilities. The teachers whose students have mild to moderate disabilities may work with children in a regular classroom alongside the classroom teacher.

Deinhart and Gerogens said that the special teacher's duty is curative or medical education. Lurina says that special teacher's speciality is for 'neurological compensation.' It means that the special teacher's work is educational rehabilitation, psychopedagogy, re-adaptation, compensation, correction, regeneration and education. The normal teacher usually uses just the last one—the education function.

Responsibilities

The speciality of a special teacher is not just a kind of education or teaching method but more of the sort of habilitation and rehabilitation than just teaching. It is not only a teaching i.e. to impart suitable knowledge and information to the students but also to make a kind of life-style.

Special education teacher works not only with the school age children but often they start to work right after the birth with the early developmental method. They teach even in adulthood.

It gives a three point time scale—

1. Upbringing (teaching the disabled child right after birth if the need arises and continue till adulthood).
2. Education (not to be finished after school age, to continue throughout the life span).
3. Personality development (main part of the individual developmental theory) during the whole life span.

Class Room Management

Though the focus of a special education teacher is the special needs of the students in the class but they are also responsible for helping the general education teacher manage the classroom. The special teacher helps to set the classroom rules and routines. They work with the teacher to create a classroom climate that benefits students with special needs.

The special teacher's job is to be aware of individual student's behaviour plans and provide discipline accordingly.

Responsibilities

- The responsibilities are immense. They have responsibilities that the other teacher do not have. The special education teacher must regularly review and develop Individualized Education Plans (IEP), hold meetings

to discuss these plans with parents, administrators, counsellors and other assessments.

- The special education teacher must regularly administer skills tests and other assessments to determine the progress of special needs students.
- They also need to determine whether the students not currently enrolled in a special education programme need their services.
- It is the special education teacher's job to make sure that the laws such as the individuals with Disabilities in Education Act are precisely followed and also correct any violations.