

TEACHING YOUR SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENT: STRATEGIES AND TOOLS THAT REALLY WORK

by Judy Munday

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To learn from instruction, a student must be able to:

ACQUIRE
STORE
ORGANIZE and RETRIEVE information
FLUENTLY and AUTOMATICALLY

POWERFUL WAYS TO HELP YOUR CHILD

Power Tool #1 *Bloom's Taxonomy*

Knowledge – facts, details, naming
Comprehension- explain, restate
Application- solve, classify, illustrate
Analysis – design, distinguish
Synthesis – construct, imagine
Evaluation – judge, debate, recommend

Power Tool #2 *Scaffolding*

Teacher provides a variety of supports for the student when weakness interferes with the student's ability to demonstrate learning independently. Scaffolding is gradually withdrawn.

Power Tool #3 *Sorting and Organizing Information*

Recognize similarities and differences – compare and contrast skills

Sort into similar categories
Help student isolate key concepts or attributes (words in text questions)

Power Tool #4 *Recognize Similarity and Differences*

Increase understanding
Apply new knowledge
Compare and Contrast activities

Power Tool #5: *Graphic Organizers are one-page worksheets with blanks filled in by the student.*

Visually organizes information and displays abstract concepts ideas or objects
Student must recognize attributes from content
Teach this skill **directly**: use examples, hands-on, pictures, etc.
Special needs students struggle with abstract information

Power Tool #6: *Study Skills for Practice and Homework*

Special needs students need support or accommodations
Explain the purpose for practice **before** work begins.
Give specific feedback! Mistakes are not a bad thing – IF students review and learn from them.

Practice helps Reading fluency

1. Pick 100-200 word passage – not too hard
2. Student reads aloud (may record)
3. Student reads same passage 5-10 minutes. Repeat daily.

Learning new math operations

1. Student works from example
2. Re-do same problem at least 5x until the PROCESS becomes firm.
3. Try second problem. Re-do if needed.

Power Tool #7: *Assistive Technology*

www.DonJohnson.com - many tech tools
www.Kidspiration.com - make graphic organizers

Reading Pen –scan text to read aloud
Calculators, online math sites
Virtual labs, web-quests, virtual museums
Social Skills software for children on the
spectrum
E-Books; Recordings for Blind and Dyslexic

Teaching Your Special Needs Student Judi Munday's book on teaching strategies that really work. Order from Judi's website or send an e-mail for more information to learn@helpinschool.net. \$25 plus S/H.

Send questions by e-mail to learn@helpinschool.net. Judi will gladly reply to requests for help, or call toll free 877-418-6264.

RESOURCES for SPECIAL NEEDS TEACHERS and PARENTS

www.LDOnline.org Learning Disabilities of America – great information, how-to information, parent rights, special education law.

www.edhelper.com A collection of some terrific online resources for subscribers. Some free links to exciting web resources, graphic organizers and more.

<http://www.teachers.ash.org.au/researchskills/dalton.htm> Bloom's Taxonomy link – with questions and activities

<http://www.portaportal.com/> A collection of some terrific online resources for teaching a variety of special needs. Links to several exciting web quests, graphic organizers and more: You must "Log in" by typing in the GUEST box (under User Name) on right top corner: Guest name: **LDTeacherRetired**

<http://www.bookshare.org/> Site to obtain free software and accessible books for listening for individuals with disabilities

<http://www.teachervision.fen.com/graphic-organizers/printable/6293.html> A wealth of printable graphics organizers – free!

<http://www.rubistar.4teachers.org> Make your own rubrics (free)

<http://edweb.sdsu.edu/links/index.html> A treasure chest with web-based lessons (safe and appropriate), wonderful alternatives for pencil and paper tasks.