



Educating Students With/Without Disabilities in Residential Care

Ed Placke, Ed.D.
Executive Director



Academic Characteristics of Students in Residential Care

- ❖ Older School-aged Males
- ❖ Average to Low Average IQs (Limited Executive Functioning)
- ❖ Chronic Health Concerns
- ❖ On Prescribed Medications
- ❖ Difficulties with Peer Relations
- ❖ Severe Emotional and Behavioral Issues
- ❖ Minimal High School Credits
- ❖ Reading, Writing, Listening and Math Skills Below Expectations



How do we prepare students academically to return to less restrictive environments such as community high schools, BOCES programs or 853 schools as a day student?

- ❖ Literacy, executive functioning skills and principles of instruction are several of the key components to preparing students to successfully transition from a residential school



Possible Solutions

- ❖ Integrate literacy skills into all academic lesson plans
- ❖ 7 Keys to Literacy

TEACHER'S PLANNING CHECKLIST FOR THE SEVEN

Key Reading Strategies



<input type="radio"/>	CREATE MENTAL IMAGES
<input type="radio"/>	USE BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE
<input type="radio"/>	ASK QUESTIONS
<input type="radio"/>	MAKE INFERENCES
<input type="radio"/>	DETERMINE THE MOST IMPORTANT IDEAS OR THEMES
<input type="radio"/>	SYNTHESIZE INFORMATION
<input type="radio"/>	USE "FIX UP" STRATEGIES

GOOD READERS USE THE FOLLOWING **SEVEN KEYS** TO UNLOCK MEANING:

CREATE MENTAL IMAGES:

Good readers create a wide range of visual, auditory, and other sensory images as they read, and they become emotionally involved with what they read.

USE BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE:

Good readers use their relevant prior knowledge before, during, and after reading to enhance their understanding of what they're reading.

ASK QUESTIONS:

Good readers generate questions before, during, and after reading to clarify meaning, make predictions, and focus their attention on what's important.

MAKE INFERENCES:

Good readers use their prior knowledge and information from what they read to make predictions, seek answers to questions, draw conclusions, and create interpretations that deepen their understanding of the text.

DETERMINE THE MOST IMPORTANT IDEAS OR THEMES:

Good readers identify key ideas or themes as they read, and they can distinguish between important and unimportant information.

SYNTHESIZE INFORMATION:

Good readers track their thinking as it evolves during reading, to get the overall meaning.

USE "FIX UP" STRATEGIES:

Good readers are aware of when they understand and when they don't. If they have trouble understanding specific words, phrases or longer passages, they use a wide range of problem-solving strategies including skipping ahead, rereading, asking questions, using a dictionary, and reading the passage aloud.



Teach Executive Functioning Skills

“Executive functioning is the mental process that enables us to plan, focus attention, remember instructions and juggle tasks successfully . . . the brain needs this skill set to filter distractions, prioritize tasks, set and achieve goals and control impulses.”



Executive Function Skills and Examples

- ❖ Memorization – acronyms/visuals/repetition
- ❖ Cognitive Methodology – Problem solving options
- ❖ Prioritizing – High light/bold font/end of chapter questions
- ❖ Notetaking – Column note format, i.e., Cornell Note Taking System
- ❖ Self-Regulation – Checklists for assignments/self-talk

Principles of Instruction

Implement all lesson plans via the principles of instruction (Evidence-based) which are teaching functions abstracted from research proved effective in improving student learning

Principles of Instruction

- ❖ Begin a lesson with a short review of previous learning.
- ❖ Present new material in small steps with student practice after each step.
- ❖ Ask a large number of questions and check the responses of all students.
- ❖ Provide models.
- ❖ Guide student practice.
- ❖ Check for student understanding.
- ❖ Obtain a high success rate.
- ❖ Provide scaffolds for difficult tasks.
- ❖ Require and monitor independent practice.
- ❖ Engage students in weekly and monthly review.



Questions & Answers
