

Relationships with Others

Module 8

Transition Roundtables
November 18 & 19, 2008

Information

- › Sometimes students with disabilities have few opportunities to interact with peers either in or out of school
- › Being part of a school means more than just going to classes every day
- › Make sure that the student considers extra curricular activities when participating in developing the courses of study

- › Student success in improving relationships with others is enhanced when programs are developed with the following considerations:

- Choice of instructional objectives
 - Match the student's need and teacher's intervention
- Effective instructional methodology
 - Provide frequent opportunities to practice
 - Provide frequent and useful feedback and reinforcement for performance
 - Integrate social skills instruction into whole school day

Assessment

- ▶ Assess general student characteristics
 - Does the student recognize the feelings of others?
 - Does the student have the cognitive skills to generalize across environments and people?
- ▶ Assess opportunities for social interaction
 - Handout
- ▶ Assess social skills
 - Behavior checklists
 - Behavioral observations
 - Sociometric assessment
 - Behavior rating skills

Social Competence

- ▶ Is the student able to:
 - Discriminate situations in which social behavior is appropriate?
 - Determine appropriate verbal and nonverbal behaviors?
 - Perform these skills smoothly, in appropriate combinations, according to social norms?
 - Exhibit the flexibility to adjust to feedback?
 - Understand and follow "hidden rules" in school situations?

Work Relationships

- ▶ Can the student get along with coworkers or the boss?
- ▶ Is the student able to accept responsibility for his/her own life and career?
- ▶ Does the student have the tendency to blame others for his/her own failures?
- ▶ Does the student understand self-related work problems?
- ▶ Does the student display appropriate work attitudes?
- ▶ Does the student understand "hidden rules" in the work place?

Strategies to teach relationship skills

- ▶ Assign a "buddy" in the class to a student who is going into a new general education class
- ▶ Consider CTE classes that provide an opportunity for hands-on, team work
- ▶ Identify hidden curriculum issues
 - Observe worker interactions at work sites
 - Determine "unwritten rules" in general education classes
 - Help students identify "unwritten rules" at school events, e.g., assemblies, football games

- ▶ Implement programs addressing, as appropriate for individual students:
 - Socialization
 - Self-esteem
 - Conflict resolution skills
 - Peer relationships
- ▶ Implement programs addressing work place skills:
 - Socializing with coworkers on the job
 - Accepting criticism from the supervisor
 - Accepting compliments from the supervisor
 - Appropriate use of break time on the job

- ▶ Teach friendship skills
 - Respect
 - Using polite words
 - Touching the right way
 - Giving a compliment
 - Receiving a compliment
 - Mutuality
 - Sharing
 - Asking a favor
 - Expressing affection
 - Apologizing

▶ Handouts:

- The Thirty Commandments of Classroom Etiquette for Teachers
- The Thirty Commandments of Classroom Etiquette for Students

▶ Activity

- Conflict resolution
