



Student With a Mild Intellectual Disability

Classroom Scenario

Ben is a seventh grader with a documented mild intellectual disability. He can learn the concepts being taught but struggles with the pace of the general education classroom. He reads on a third grade level and has a hard time understanding abstract concepts and organizing information independently; although, he does occasionally surprise you with what he has learned! If he is presented with information in a video format or with pictures, he gleans more. Sometimes he does not have the background knowledge or vocabulary to relate to the current topic of study, and you as the teacher do not have time to fill in the gaps or pre-teach the vocabulary that is needed for a unit.

Ben struggles with understanding difficult concepts and reads at a lower level than his peers. He also has difficulty with abstract concepts, math, and organizing information. He needs support to reinforce and practice understanding of a limited number of main ideas from a unit of study.

Potential Solutions

- Make language visible with supplemental pictures and video
 - Explain new vocabulary to build background knowledge
 - Programs such as Classroom Suite and Boardmaker can help a student to use pictures to reinforce new vocabulary and concepts
 - Use graphic organizers such as the Inspiration app to clarify how concepts fit together or create a timeline
 - Support math through the use of tools such as the Mathline or a calculator
 - Adjust reading levels of text using Snap and Read or online tools such as NewsELA
 - Read text aloud using text-to-speech apps such as Dragon Naturally Speaking or built-in accessibility tools
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