

VtAHPERD Presentation: Modifying Activities for Inclusion: Everyone can play!

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Vermont Standard Addressed:

Principle #13: Given your knowledge of law, policies, and procedures for students with special needs, how effectively are the needs of the student being met?

This presentation illustrates how physical educators can meet the mandates identified in Public Law 105-17 (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act – IDEA) by fostering the development of physical and motor fitness, fundamental motor skills, skills in aquatics, dance, and individual and group games and sports. IDEA mandates that all children with diagnosed disabilities be provided with an appropriate physical education offered in the least restrictive environment.

Introduction: Imagine how it might feel to participate in physical activity if you were disabled. This hands-on session will provide session attendees the opportunity to experience moving with a disability with able-bodied individuals while being included in a variety of physical activities that promote the development of fitness, fundamental motor skills and movement concepts. In addition this session illustrates how positive character traits such as respect, cooperation, fairness, and caring can be infused in your teaching.

Inclusion: A philosophy that asserts all individuals, regardless of ability, should participate within the same environment with necessary support and individualized attention. It is a belief that “all individuals belong and are valued” (Kasser & Lytle, 2005).

Our job: Make all of our classrooms inclusive in learning to support all students. All students “have an opportunity to benefit from inclusive programming, regardless of age or ability level” (Kasser & Lytle, 2005).

Why this presentation? Often, we dismiss those who need more of our attention because it is easy. Participation in this presentation will build respect and understanding for those who live with disabilities on a daily basis. Participation in activities while experiencing a disability can help you and your students understand participation in physical activity from the perspective the disability. In the end you can use ideas from this presentation to:

- Motivate participation from all students in appropriate ways
- Increase awareness, respect, and insight into one’s own strengths and non-strengths
- Bring new perspectives and value to your teaching
- Gives teachers a new insight considering modifying activities for inclusion

Disabilities built into this presentation: Obscured vision and blindness, obesity, paraplegia, restricted movement and partial deafness.

LET PLAY!

