

Computer and Process Approach to Writing in the Instruction of Severely Handicapped Students

Handicapped students ages 9-16



Technology-infused writing program developed for severely handicapped students:

- *Using computers students author their own works while honing academic and social skills.*

Results



- *Pre- and post-writing samples indicated a statistically significant improvement in writing.*
- *Rating scales designed to rate attending to task, task completion, resistance to attending, initiative, and independence also showed positive results in all areas.*

The Program

This program improves the writing skills and school behavior of severely handicapped students through the use of computers and the process approach to writing. It is for students with deficits in:

- personal behavior skills (i.e., self-control and peer interaction),
- social skills necessary to succeed in school and work, and
- academic competencies necessary to meet promotional standards of the school system.

The philosophy of this approach is that all writers are authors who should participate in the decisions concerning their work. The student writes a rough draft and the work is then proofread by the student, who makes corrections in red pen. Editing techniques are introduced. A conference is held with another student or a teacher who also reads the work. Other changes are made if agreed upon by both parties; however, implementation of the changes is the sole decision of the author. The student then considers the suggested revisions, edits further, and, finally, produces a finished copy.

- Each student uses a McIntosh or PC computer.
- Computer programs include Bank Street software, Word, and Microsoft Works.
- Students attend a 45-minute writing lab two-to-three times per week.
- Special activities include the illustration, binding, publication, and display of student-authored books and stories.

Professional Development

A designated staff member is trained in the program and then provides turnkey training. Initial training can be completed in half a day.

Costs & Funding Options

A visit to the demonstration program site is suggested. The recommended staffing ratio per class is 10 children to one teacher and two paraprofessionals. Replicator must have 10 McIntosh computer systems, at least one printer, Bank Street Writer software, blank disks, and bookbinding materials.

Learning Standards

English Language Arts: 4) read, write, listen, and speak for social interaction.
Mathematics, Science and Technology: 2) access, generate, process, and transfer information using appropriate technologies.

Contact

Barry Amper
P.S. 177 Queens
56-37 188th Street
Fresh Meadows, NY
11365
718-357-4650 x 616
Fax: 718-357-3507
E-mail: bamper@nycboe.net