



Intellectual Disabilities

Kasandra Cariveau

Alyssa Steiner

Jordon Hahn

Intellectual Disabilities

- Formerly known as “mental retardation”
- Impaired intellectual functioning, limited adapted behavior, need for supports, and initial occurrence before age 18
- <http://www.somena.org/showpage.aspx?PID=371>
- Symptoms
 - sit up, crawl, or walk later than other children;
 - learn to talk later, or have trouble speaking,
 - find it hard to remember things,
 - not understand how to pay for things,
 - have trouble understanding social rules,
 - have trouble seeing the consequences of their actions,
 - have trouble solving problems, and/or
 - have trouble thinking logically

School Issues

- Specially designed instruction according to the child's needs and severity of disability
- Content, methodology, and delivery of instruction addressed differently than in a general ed. classroom
- Have trouble with conceptual skills
 - language and literacy; money, time, and number concepts; and self-direction
- Find the need, meet the need

Community Issues

- Services to ensure complete inclusion into the community and provide skills for everyday living
 - Case management (a case manager helps the person apply for Medicaid)
 - Family support (for example, respite care)
 - Vocational programs
 - Day programs
 - Residential options
 - Early intervention
 - Special education
 - Transition services

Psychological and Social Issues

- Two general categories
 - Moderate- Light
 - Severe
- Social Issues
 - Underdeveloped ability of social adjustment
 - Lack of interests and orientations
 - Irresponsibility
 - Aloofness
 - Aggression

Tips for Teachers and Parents

- Recognize that you can make an enormous difference in this student's life!
- Teach the student life skills such as daily living, social skills, and occupational awareness.
- Be as concrete as possible. Demonstrate what you mean rather than giving verbal directions.

Down Syndrome

- Falls under the Intellectual Disability spectrum
- A chromosomal disorder with identifiable physical characteristics resulting in delays in physical and intellectual development
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=StwSnjtMkxQ> (:35)

References

- <http://nichcy.org/disability/specific/intellectual#char>
- http://www.aaid.org/content_100.cfm
- <http://www.thearc.org/page.aspx?pid=2545>
- Mrs. Marman's class powerpoint