

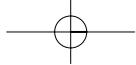
■ Preface

Dear Teacher,

The field of special education is full of responsibilities, demands, and decisions, and as a new teacher (or a teacher new to the field), you may feel overwhelmed by all you have to do. In addition, the newly revised Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (often referred to as IDEA 2004 or IDEIA), as well as No Child Left Behind, place further demands on special education teachers. This book was written to provide you with useful ideas and suggestions to help alleviate some of the stress you may feel as you meet these challenges. If you are seeking a text that provides help in teaching specific curricula, in demonstrating competence in core subject areas, or in obtaining certification, this is not the book for you. However, if you are prepared in the aforementioned areas and are looking for a teacher-friendly resource to use in your classroom—whether you teach alone or coteach with a general education teacher—you’ve come to the right place.

The strategies and ideas you find here address some of the most urgent concerns you will face such as specially designed instruction, legal responsibilities, positive behavioral supports, and working with families, to name just a few. Because we know most special education teachers don’t have the luxury of reading a book cover to cover and need to be able to find an answer to vexing questions as quickly as possible, we have taken care to make this book very user-friendly. With the busy teacher in mind, each strategy is limited to five points or fewer, and chapters were designed to “stand alone.” So, as questions or concerns arise, you need only to turn to the chapter that addresses your specific concern to find a comprehensive list of strategies as well as additional considerations related to the topic. In addition, we will frequently refer you to other sections of the book where you can find out even more information. We also provide you with additional resources. You will also find that the suggestions provided in the book can be implemented without extensive interpretation or planning, creation of materials, or permission from your administrator. They cover many aspects of teaching students with disabilities and provide very specific and practical ideas.

We realize, of course, that schools vary from city to city and system to system and that districts implement special education laws in slightly different ways. However, we know that many needs and concerns are common to all teachers in this field no matter where they are. We think you will recognize some of your own needs and concerns in this book. Keep in mind that these strategies can and should be changed or modified to fit your particular situation. They are not written in stone and should be seen only as a means to an end in assisting you in your ongoing efforts to provide your students with a quality education.



x ■ Common-Sense Classroom Management

This book is a great resource whether you are a novice special education teacher, someone new to the field, a special education teacher trainer, or a mentor teacher. These clear, easy-to-implement strategies will assist you in meeting the many challenges you face daily and help to ensure ongoing success throughout the school year.

Good Luck!

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