



Keys to Understanding The Education of a Child with a Hearing Loss

acoustical improvements are those physical improvements made to the physical environment that can reduce ambient noise levels including but not limited to: carpeting, draperies, installation of acoustical ceiling tile, tennis balls on the feet of chairs, repair of heating/cooling/ventilation systems, and avoidance of open-plan classrooms.

American Sign Language is taught first as the child's primary language, and English is taught as a second language. ASL is recognized as its own language. ASL does not follow English grammatical structure.

auditory/oral programs for children with hearing losses that focus instructionally on maximizing the child's ability to use residual hearing through amplification, hearing aids and/or cochlear implants with speechreading teaching the child to speak. No visual communication system, such as sign language, is used in this approach. This philosophy concentrates on preparing children' to live in a predominantly hearing society.

auditory/verbal approach is defined by nine guiding principles where the parent becomes the primary educator of the child. This approach does not encourage speechreading. An auditory/verbal approach is always done in a 1:1 situation. It excludes the use of sign language.

total communication uses a combination of methods teaching speech, listening, and language skills to a child through the use of visually supported language such as signing exact English. Sign language used in total communication programs is not a language such as American Sign Language.

cued speech a visual communication system that employs the use of 8 fundamental handshapes that represent different speech sounds. The handshapes help a child distinguish speech sounds that look the same on the lips such as a /p/ and /b/. The use of cues significantly enhances speechreading ability.

closed set task

open set task

academic skills

preacademic skills

acoustic hoop or acoustic screen

accommodations Provisions made in how a student accesses and demonstrates learning. These do not substantially change the instruction level, content, or performance criteria. Made to provide equal access to learning and equal access to demonstrate what is known.

Advocate One who pleads another's cause or in support of an individual. A special needs advocate primary responsibility is to represent the best interests of the student in the educational process

Age appropriate Activities, materials, curriculum, and environment consistent with the chronological age of the child being served

appropriate Appropriate education means an education designed to provide educational benefit and must be comparable to that provided to students without disabilities. This may be defined as regular or special education services.

Assistive technology device Equipment that helps students perform daily living tasks, communicate with others, participate in the educational process, join in recreational activities and/or work. Using these tools can help students become more independent

Audiologist A professional educated in the study of normal and impaired hearing. The audiologist determines if a person has a hearing impairment, what type of impairment it is, and how the individual can make the best use of remaining hearing. If a person will benefit from using a hearing aid or other listening device, the audiologist can assist with the selection, fitting, and purchase of the most appropriate aid and with training the individual to use the aid effectively

auditory verbal therapist Auditory-Verbal clinicians are professionals who have been trained in one or more of the disciplines of speech pathology, audiology, and education of the deaf. They recommend an

Auditory-Verbal treatment plan as the first option for developing a speech, language, and educational program for hearing-impaired children.

aural rehabilitation a theoretical framework for rehabilitation for establishing communicative abilities by using residual hearing

annual goal Describe the educational performance to be achieved by a student by the end of the IEP year.

Annual review An evaluation is conducted at least annually by the Committee on Special Education (CSE) for the purpose of recommending the continuation, modification or termination of the special education programs or services to the student with disabilities

Assessment The process of gathering and carefully interpreting information about a child using a variety of formal tests and informal observation that provides guidance in developing an educational program.

***Criterion Referenced Test (CRT) - A non-standardized test that measures specific knowledge or content a student has learned or not learned.*

***Curriculum Based Measurement (CBM) – A standardized assessment that utilizes the district curriculum to measure student performance as compared to individual school norms*

behavior modification A technique of changing human behavior based on the theory of operant behavior and conditioning. Careful observation of events preceding and following the behavior in question is required. The environment is manipulated to reinforce the desired responses, thereby bringing about the desired change in behavior.

Bilateral Pertaining to or affecting both sides of the body (two-sided).
Example: having a hearing impairment in both ears

benchmark goals Levels of academic performance used as checkpoints to monitor progress toward performance goals and/or academic standards.

consent means that the parent/guardian has been fully informed of all information relevant to the activity for which consent is sought, in his or her native language, and agrees in writing to the carrying out of the activity for which his/her consent is sought. The parent/guardian understands that the granting of consent is voluntary and may be revoked at any time.

c-print captioning C-print is a speech to print system in which a hearing captionist or transcriber types the dialogue or classroom content and comments by students into a computer that then is transcribed and read by a student who is using another lap-top computer or tv monitor. Text is stored and can be edited and distributed to students after class.

cued speech mouthshape-handshape pairs and mouthshape-hand placement pairs used to visually represent and distinguish among the phonemic segments of consonant-vowel languages a visual articulatory system. Designed in 1966 by R. Orin Cornett, Ph.D., the system is characterized by a set of visibly discrete symbols

delayed language A language disorder in which there is a noticeable slowness in the development of the vocabulary and grammar necessary for expressing and understanding thoughts and ideas.

delayed speech Failure of speech to develop at the expected age. More specifically: A deficit in speaking proficiency where the individual performs like someone much younger

differentiated instruction Consistently using a variety of instructional approaches to the content, process, and/or products in response to learning styles and interest of academically diverse students

determination of eligibility Determination of eligibility for special education and related services is conducted by a multidisciplinary committee of persons who are familiar with the child. The committee considers the evaluation data, the placement options, and all other significant factors relating to the student's learning process

direct services Providing services in a manner which addresses individualized needs that require specialized intervention strategies which can be performed only by the specialist providing the service (i.e., occupational therapist). Generally requires frequent contact between the child and the therapist

duration In relation to an IEP, this signifies the length of time an exceptional student will need a special program or service during the school year or extended school year

early identification Early identification includes the evaluation and treatment provided to families and their children under 3 years old who have, or are at risk for having, a disability, or delay in speech, language or hearing. A child can quickly fall behind if speech and language learning is delayed. Early identification increases the chances for improving communication skills

early intervention Early intervention applies to children of school age or younger who are discovered to have or be at risk of developing a handicapping condition or other special need that may affect their development. Early intervention consists in the provision of services such children and their families for the purpose of lessening the effects of the condition. Early intervention can be remedial or preventive in nature--remediating existing developmental problems or preventing their occurrence.

equal access Equal opportunity of a qualified person with a disability to participate in or benefit from educational aids, benefits, or services.

extended school year Additional instructional time is provided to the student so the student will not significantly lose skills that he/she has already learned. The IEP is the guiding document for ESY and should be considered at initial, annual, and triennial reviews.

fine motor skills Small muscle development involving the integration of the student's vision and the use of his/her hands

functional age: An individual's level of ability to perform various tasks relative to the average age of others who can perform the same tasks.

gross motor skills The ability to use large muscles in a purposeful manner such as walking, jumping, and bending over

free and appropriate public education special education and related services that are provided at public expense, under public supervision and direction, and without charge in conformity with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). This includes preschool, elementary school, and secondary school.

individual educational plan IEP a written document that describes the intended education of an educationally disabled child that has been developed by a school district in accordance with rules adopted by the

State Board of Education and that provides necessary special education and educationally related services within an approved program.

IEP meeting A meeting held to write, review, or change a student's IEP.

IEP review meeting held at least once a year to look at, study, and talk about an exceptional student's IEP. The purpose of the IEP review is to make decisions about changes in the IEP

Individual family service plan An individual plan written by a local agency responsible for a student's education from birth to three years of age

itinerant teacher teacher who moves about a school district to several schools or several school districts and schedules children for teaching periods. Children usually leave their regular classrooms to work with the itinerant teacher. 2. A teacher who regularly visits a student who is unable to attend school (for whatever reasons) in his or her home or in a hospital setting to provide tutorial instruction

least restrictive environment Your child's education must be in the least restrictive environment or "LRE" which means that placement of students with disabilities in special education classes, special classes, separate schools or other removal from the regular educational environment occurs only when the nature of the severity of the disability is such that, even with the use of supplementary aids and services, education cannot be satisfactorily achieved

local education agency LEA a public board of education or other public authority legally constituted within a State for either administrative control or direction of, or to perform a service function for, public elementary or secondary schools in a city, county, township, school district, or other political subdivision of a State, or for a combination of school districts or counties as are recognized in a State as an administrative agency for its public or secondary schools.

Mainstreaming The process of integrating children with disabilities into regular educational or social programs, implementing the least restrictive environment concept

Master To reach a goal or meet an objective as measured by the “evaluation criteria, schedules, and procedures.”

Modification Altering the length, content and scope in which assignments or tests are to be completed to allow a student with a disabling condition to complete the approved curriculum

notetaker a student with normal hearing takes notes for students with hearing losses

occupational therapy A therapy or treatment that helps individual development of skills that will aid in daily living, perceptual motor skills, and sensory motor skills

oral interpreter a qualified professional who serves as a link between the speaker and the student. This interpreter silently mouths the words of the speaker, augmented by natural gestures. This supports understanding of classroom content with strong visual cues. Oral interpreting is usually first introduced at the middle school level.

otologist: One who is involved in the study of the ear and its diseases

Phonemic awareness The awareness that language is composed of small sounds and the ability to manipulate these sounds

Phonological awareness Involves the exact awareness of sound structure of language at the word, syllable and sound levels and the ability to manipulate (segment, blend, play with) that sound structure

Placement Placement refers to a child's educational plan. Under IDEA, a student's placement may be any combination of special and general educational settings, as long as it is in the *least restrictive environment* possible.

Pure tone audiometry: Audiometric evaluation using tones that are free of external noise.

speech audiometry Measurement of overall performance in hearing, understanding, and responding to speech for a general assessment of hearing and an estimate of the degree of practical handicap; earphones, bone oscillators and sound field may be employed

Referral the process by which a student with possible educational needs is brought to the attention of the special education staff for consideration of testing/evaluation to determine if the child needs special education to be successful. A referral can be made by any person who knows the child and feels that s/he is having academic difficulty that could be addressed by special education and related services.

Regression/recoupment The amount of loss of skills a child experiences over an instructional break (primarily summer vacation) and the length of time it takes him/her to recover the lost skills

regular classroom: Here your child attends the class and school he would attend if he did not have a handicapping condition, working right along with his non-handicapped peers. Consultants, therapists, itinerant teachers, special educators, etc., can provide special instruction in the regular classroom to your child.

Related service Related services refer to transportation and such developmental, corrective, and other support services as are required to assist a child with a disability to benefit from special education, and includes speech-language pathology and audiology services, psychological services, physical and occupational therapy, recreation, early identification and assessment of disabilities in children, counseling services, including rehabilitation counseling, orientation and mobility services, and medical services for diagnostic or evaluation purposes. Also included are school health services, social work services in schools, and parent counseling and training.

real time captioning classroom lecture or dialogue is entered on a computer which shows up on a screen or laptop computer that the student then reads. It requires a real-time captioner, someone trained in using court room stenography equipment.

resource classroom room separate from the regular classroom in which children with disabilities can receive specialized assistance to reinforce and supplement the regular class instruction. The amount of time that students spend each day in the resource classroom varies according to individual needs, and the remainder of the day is spent in his or her regular classroom

self-contained special education classroom: 1. A separate classroom where special students spend the majority of their school day, while often being integrated with their nondisabled peers whenever possible, such as in nonacademically-oriented classes and on the playground. 2. According to SD Rules, a self-contained program is: A specialized instructional environment for eligible children in need of special education or special education and related services who require intensive instructional procedures

sensory integration Sensory Integration develops in the course of ordinary childhood activities. Motor planning ability is a natural outcome of the process, as is the ability to adapt to incoming sensations. But for some children, sensory integration does not develop as efficiently as it should. When the process is disordered, a number of problems in learning, development, or behavior may become evident.

special education Specially designed instruction, at no cost to the parent, to meet the identified needs of a student with disabilities

support services 1. Transportation, financial help, support groups, homemaker services, respite services and other specific services to children and families. 2. Activities and services which contribute to the enhancement of quality in vocational education programs, including activities such as dependent care services and transportation, teacher training, curriculum development, and encouraging the removal of sex stereotyping in vocational education.

team or IEP team Individual Education Plan Team is a group of people, that include school staff, parents, and others that either the school staff or parents choose to include, who have knowledge about the child.

tympanogram/tympanometry A graph showing the measurement of the ease with which sound flows through the eardrum membrane while air pressure against the eardrum is varied. It is a simple procedure that can be performed in most doctor's offices. Measures the movement of the eardrum, and can assist in determining if fluid or pressure is present in the middle ear.

Unilateral One sided. Affecting or occurring on only one side of the body

