

Tips from Teachers for Success

Classroom Organization

- Classroom schedule posted using Boardmaker-reviewed daily and used by students.
- Keep 3 ring binder of each students work to use for VAAP as well as to keep record of student progress
- Provide positive and productive environment with high expectations for student achievement.
- May include educational setting with a classroom, kitchen, main area and a couple of smaller rooms which allow for flexibility and needs of the staff and students.
- Software is easy to load because the computer station is a teacher/open station without security, allowing easy load of software.

School/Parent Communication

- Notebook of daily communication with family. A set form which prompts some of the information that both sides might need. Parents also send information to school.
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Adapted Materials/Communication Supports

- Use of BIGmacks® for quick student response and involvement. Paraprofessionals and teachers are trained in how to program devices.
- When program opened the school division provided multiple AT and AAC materials. Has access to what students need. Uses AAC devices often.
- Software is easy to load because the computer station is a teacher/open station without security, so she is able to easily load software.

Instruction and Assessment

- Peer buddies come into class and work with students on IEP goals and help to collect evidence for VAAP
- Students have daily chores in and around school building

- Very organized lessons—Use of a 3ring binder to hold laminated, topic boards that relate to the lesson---and had a copy for each student with removable pictures to match and/or select.
- Kept 3 ring binder of each students work to use for VAAP as well as to keep record of student progress.
- Students attend elective classes daily with support from paraprofessional.
- Weekly community based instruction and ASOLs are taught in these environments. Shopping includes requests from home—parents have responded well and are proud to have student bring something home to help family.
- Instruction includes reinforcement of ASOL in multiple ways.
- Lots of visuals around room and premade materials for quick reinforcement. Limited down-time for students. Keep them actively engaged.
- Focus is on blending functional skills with the academics and ASOLs.
- Students have jobs around school building. Not in community on a regular basis due to transportation issues.

Support from Colleagues and Administrators

- Strong administrative support.
- A big effort is made to connect with other teachers and to build relationships.
- Teacher and paraprofessionals work as a team.
- Connect with other programs in school to get students on jobs and in the community. Lots of support among staff in school.