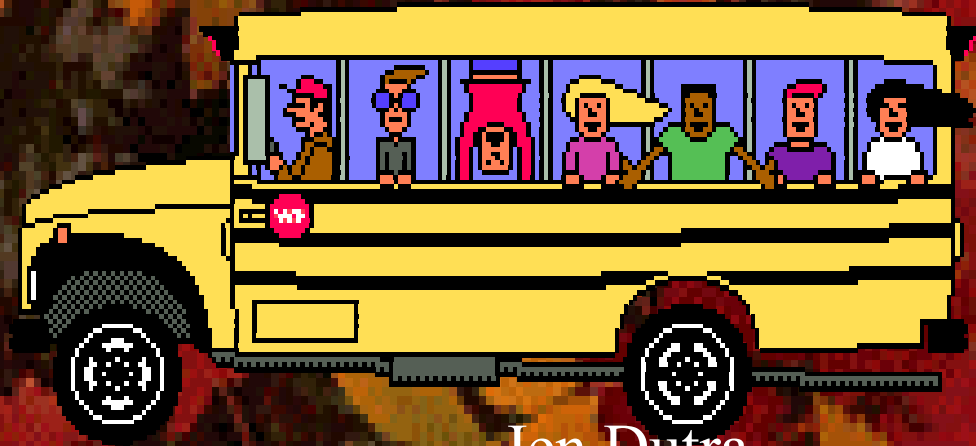


Students design and deliver presentations on their field placements and research. They present in small groups and professor and peers evaluate the presentation and their performance. The professor also assesses their proficiency in using technology and trouble shooting problems.



Jen Dutra

The Exceptional Child

Fall 2000

Early Childhood



Jen Dutra

The Exceptional Child

Fall 2000



Childhood Center

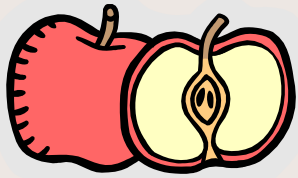
This is an early childhood center affiliated with the Head Start program. All the students who attend the center are economically disadvantaged.



The Pre-Primary Impaired Classroom

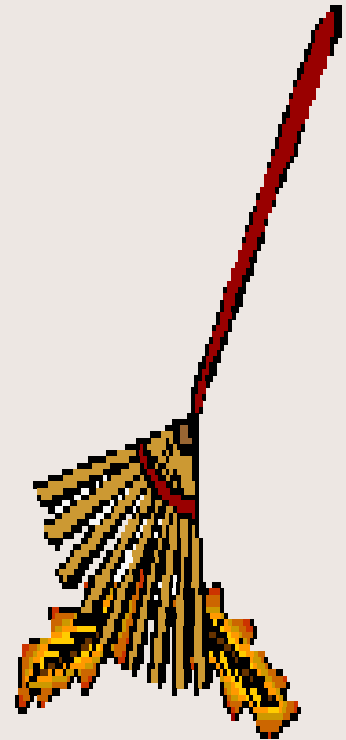
The room has students with nearly every type of impairment. Most of the students have a speech or language impairment. There are two girls and eight boys in the afternoon class. Three of the students have Down's Syndrome and about half are Hispanic. Much of the time in the classroom is spent working on gross and fine motor skills because few of the student have a normal level of coordination.





Initial Reactions

- I've never worked with this type of kids. Will I be able to do it?
- Excited
- Happy
- How am I going to understand the kids with speech impairments?
- I love these kids!





My Goals



- Decide if Pre-Primary Impairment (PPI) is the field of education that I want to go into.
- Develop an understanding of each child and have a personal relationship with each of them.





-My Jobs-



Repairing the classroom sink

- Helping students with fine and gross motor skills
- Making sure that all the students receive one on one attention
- Building rapport with students
- Making sure all of the children stay with us when we're outside of the classroom



-What I've Learned-



- Don't turn away from this class for even a moment
- More than anything else, these kids need love and attention
- The easiest way to engage PPI kids is by physical contact and/or music
- You **will** get playdough in your hair. Get used to it.
- You will never meet more affectionate and loving kids.



TEXT



CONNECTIONS

Head Start is the largest national program to integrate special education students into preschool classes

Communication Disorders- Preschool-aged students with communication disorders can receive services from a private therapist if they are found to qualify for therapy

Emotional/Behavioral Disorders- The Parents as Teachers program is a valuable resource to parents whose children have an emotional impairment

Mental Impairment- Children living in poverty are at a greater risk for mental impairment. Project EAGLE (Early Guidance Leading to Empowerment) is a part of the Head Start program that serves families of preschool-aged children with disabilities.

Attention Deficit (Hyperactivity) Disorder- Preschool programs for ADD/ADHD students should have a half-day schedule, a small class size, a low teacher-student ratio, and knowledgeable teachers. Apple Orchard's PPI room fits all of these requirements.



Related Article



Educating Young Children with Disabilities Using Responsible Inclusion

Tom E. C. Smith

Childhood Education v74n5 (1998)

Copyright Association for Childhood Education
International 1998



The End

For teaching ideas for Pre-Primary
Impairment students, visit this website



<http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/curriculum/pep/teach.htm>