

05 Distinguishing the mentally retarded students

Definition

Mentally retarded means a tardy mental development when comparing with that of the children of the same age, leading to difficulties in cognition, viability, social adaptation, etc. Such predicament will improve should beneficial environment and appropriate education be acquired.

Common Features of Mental Retardation

- Slow at learning and reacting when being compared with the children of the same age
- Lacking learning motivation
- Poor in speech expression
- Easy to forget what was learned
- Weak in solving problems through self experience
- Lacking the power of imagination and integration
- Unable to concentrate
- Often tend to rely on others
- Weak in self control

Pedagogic Strategy and Principles

- Understand the situation of the behaviour and design an individual pedagogic plan to offer systematic teaching materials to acquire a steady progress
- Provide lively and vivid pedagogic items relating to daily life to arouse the learning motivation
- Divide the materials to be learned into simple and easy steps, teaching only one item at a time to make the process accessible
- Use simple, clear and positive instructions
- Make good use of real objects, pictures, video shows, sound-tracks or the computer as teaching aids to enable the students to learn through visual, audio or touching experimentation to elevate the learning outcome
- Always guide the students to revise repeatedly what they have learned
- Offer immediate praise and encouragement when a student has tried his/her best in showing fine performance and give appropriate remarks for any wrong-doing done
- Provide chances for the students to manifest their accomplishment to enhance self-confidence
- Help the students to learn the proper social communication technique through demonstration and role play exercises

Principles of parents' teaching

- Both the father and mother should hold the same attitude of disciplining the child
- Never over safeguard or require too much from your child
- Let your child learn to be independent step by step and not to rely on other's help in accordance with the situation
- Encourage your child to undertake as much housework as possible to help him/her to acquire the fundamental viability
- Provide immediate and appropriate guidance for any wrong-doing of your child
- Allow your child to participate in community life to get more acquainted with the environment and surroundings
- Offer as much as possible praises and encouragement

Getting along together

- Do not discriminate or tease the expressions or behaviour of the mentally retarded and never make a fool of them
- Keep them company in games and learning while staying friendly with them

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