



Behavior: Social Relationships in Secondary Education

Est. Time: 50 Minutes

Objective

To gain a better understanding of some of the social challenges that students with disabilities might encounter in secondary education.

Overview

Some students with disabilities have difficulties in the social realm, especially those who are in inclusive classrooms. Secondary education brings its own set of challenges, as the teenage years are often fraught with hormonal and social changes. The following discussion questions are meant to help develop ways to help students with disabilities improve social skills.

Questions/Discussion Topics

1. Discuss ways to introduce to the class a new student who utilizes a wheelchair. Assume this student has arrived in the middle of the year and is already self-conscious about being the newest kid in class.
2. Brainstorm how extra-curricula activities could be adapted so as to include both students with and without disabilities.
3. Discuss specific ways teachers can help students with disabilities in their classroom to become proactive in developing friendships. How can they increase the participation of students with physical disabilities in activities outside of school?
4. Compare the different social needs of students in elementary and secondary years. Discuss which is harder for students with disabilities: to adjust socially in their elementary years, when friendships are first formed, or in their secondary years, when peer pressure and the impulse toward social conformity is at its height.