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Intro to Special Education

What do I think when I hear Special Education?

If someone had asked me what I thought of when someone said Special Education when I was in elementary school or middle school, I would have immediately thought of kids that were disabled. The kids that were in these types of classrooms were in someway either mentally handicapped, emotionally disabled, or some way impaired. As I have grown and learned more about my classmates that were apart of these classes, my perspective has changed. Students with even minor problems like trouble with reading or very mild dyslexia have been apart of these classes as well. When I hear Special education, it makes me think of kids with many different types of disabilities, unique classrooms, and the different types of people that take on this work that help these special students.

Disabilities can range from behavior disorders, challenges with learning, physical disabilities, and development issues. Kids that have these issues can range from mild to severe as well. With all these different and unique difficulties that these students possess, it does take a certain kind of person to help and teach these kids. Some children or adults may have a little more trouble due to an issue they have while trying to learn. All disabilities may not even be noticeable at first or for a few months or years. With all the reading and writing tests that teacher’s give out annually to keep track of each student’s progress, they can tell which students may be falling behind. Having Special education really gives these students a chance to get the help they need, possess the knowledge they need, and make sure they don’t get left behind in the process.

Hearing these words not only make me think of the people that are apart of special education program, but the type of setting that they are put in. Special education rooms are classrooms or areas for specific students that are in need of extra help or for special learning. These rooms may also be known as resource rooms. Depending on the school that the pupil attends, they may get the opportunity to be in the room for portions of the day or an all day everyday type of thing. So either the school will use an inclusion approach, where the student will spend the day with no special need students; or main stream where the child will only spend some of the time in the general education classroom. When it comes to their room and hearing the words special education, I think of the lots of diagrams and visual learning tools for the students. The on hands learning I think, gives them a better idea of what they are trying to learn.

Last but not least, one of the things that pops up most in my head when I hear those words is not only what the students or rooms are like, but also the teachers. A rewarding and at times a very tough job, is the career that people have spending hours getting these students through disabilities that they have a hard time controlling. The teachers, I think; should be caring and compassionate people trying to make a difference in peoples lives. They are kind hearted but always pushing students to do better and giving them opportunities that other teachers cannot. Always have high expectations for their students and never give up on them. The students need to know someone is behind them, willing to be supportive when they are not doing something right. Besides their family and friends, that teacher is one of the most important people in their life. All teachers should recognize that role as they come to work everyday.

When hearing those two little words: Special Education, there is a much larger meaning behind it then what people think. Whether it’s the students, classroom, or the people teaching it, there is never just one thought that should come across a persons mind. The opportunity to be provided with this education could lead many students to do some amazing and incredible things with their lives. I think of some of the most spectacular people and some of the most creative and engaging kids out there.