Social Media for Professional Development

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Social Media Options

- LinkedIn
- Blogs
- Pinterest
- Twitter
- Facebook
- Google+
Pros:
- Seen as a place for professional growth
- Topical groups drive users to relevant content
- Sends discussion updates to users email boxes

Cons:
- Most often used for employment searches rather than learning
Making Special Education Work

Start a: [Discussion] [Poll]

A Good School: Devices or Vices: Does an E-Reader makes a Better...
apgoodschool.blogspot.com * 4 hours ago

Most Popular Discussions

Where do you stand on the learning styles debate
Recently there has been a debate going on de-bunking the theory of learning styles. I support the fact that there is a reason for the ...
posted 7 days ago

Elizabeth Wilson 14 hours ago - The U.S. Department of Education conducted a webinar this summer on personalized education. This is the latest "buzz" concept in ...

What do you look for when hiring a new special education teacher?
posted 20 days ago

Pantelis Makris 21 hours ago - Thank you Tanya we are in the same line and I guess most of us agree that is important to have dedication and enthusiasm apart of the ...
**Pros:**
- Widespread use
- Integration with Twitter, web page

**Cons:**
- Resistance from veteran educators
- Potential for off-topic or negative comment exchanges
- Not perceived as a learning venue
Today's featured parent center serves families in Nebraska. PTI Nebraska is a statewide resource for families of children with disabilities and special health care needs. You'll find lots of resources on their website including a video series that helps parents navigate the special education process. http://pti-nebraska.org/

Timely article on the importance of young adults self-advocating for learning supports in college -- and not just because we're cited as a source! http://www.huffingtonpost.com/marjorie-hansen-shaevitz/college-admissions-learning-disabilities_b_1820059.html

If you have a learning disability and are applying to colleges, the first thing you need to do is disclose... http://www.huffingtonpost.com

Today's featured parent center serves families throughout North Dakota. Pathfinder Parent Center offers a lending library, trainings & webinars, newsletters, web links, 1:1 support and more. Check out their helpful map of resources by county! http://www.pathfinder-nd.org/

Just in time for back-to-school -- share our Disability Awareness pinboard with general educators and extracurricular programs. It's loaded with tips, guides, etiquette, and even a training curriculum! http://pinterest.com/elainedic/disability-awareness/
Google Plus

**Pros:**
- Integrates with Google searches, YouTube, Gmail, Google Maps, etc.
- Offers free group video conferences (Hangouts)
- Organizes contacts into groups

**Cons:**
- Few users – mostly young, male, early adopters
Disability Scoop  11:18 AM - Public

A Washington, D.C. newspaper is facing rebuke after an editorial written by its own staff criticized federal efforts to hire more people with disabilities.

NICHCY  9:52 AM - Public

Today’s featured parent center serves families of babies, children and youth with the full range of disabilities living in West Milford, Ringwood, Pompton Lakes, Bloomingdale, Wanaque, Jefferson, Hamburg, and Vernon, New Jersey. Association for Special Children and Families works to locate and support unserved families and increase parents’ capacity to participate effectively in achieving quality educational outcomes for their children.

SAVE THE DATE! Association for Special Children & Families. Assistive Technology. Disability Fair. (For Special Needs). Friday, September 14, 2012. 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm. Hillcrest Community Center. 1...
**Pros:**
- Reaches young professionals, tech-savvy folks
- Hashtags help you organize and structure content

**Cons:**
- It’s only as good as the tweeters you follow
- Slow to develop a following, but over time you will build a useful network
Discover how federal and state legislation affects the implementation of RTI at the school level ow.ly/d2CSa #LD #SPED


Here is a downloadable form to make it to share information about your child with teachers and other staff. fo.me/1csyCjgaK

#education Feds. Spar on NAEP Testing of ELLs, Special Ed. Students bit.ly/PQDPuU

@PARCCPlace issued a flurry of sample #CommonCore assessment items yesterday, causing their servers to crash:
blogs.edweek.org/edweek/curriculum...

Today's featured parent center serves families in North Carolina, and also serves as the regional technical... ftl.me/1Avsc6i1

@USedgov awards @Bookshare $32M over 5 years to convert more books into versions students w/ disabilities can read:
blogs.edweek.org/edweek/special/...
Pros:

- Fast-growing platform, especially with young women
- Visual interface captures new audiences
- Easy to link to existing resources

Cons:

- It’s only as good as the pinners you follow
- You can only “pin” resources that have visible images
Pros:
- Flexible format allows links, tags, conversation starters
- Comment streams can engage users

Cons:
- Susceptible to “story telling”
- Not always seen as a serious source of information
Intellectual Disabilities in Your Classroom: 9 Tips for Teachers

by Lisa Küpper and Kori Hamilton
National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities (NICHCY)

More than 445,000 students with intellectual disabilities receive special education and related services in our public schools. Perhaps you’re one of their teachers. If you have a student with an intellectual disability in your classroom, you already know that he or she has special learning needs. **But how do you address those learning needs in positive and effective ways that really help the student learn?**

This blog will give you 9 tips and connect you with a wealth of additional information. First, however...

**About Intellectual Disabilities**

Intellectual disability is a term used when a person has certain limitations in cognitive functioning that affect attention, memory, and the ability to think abstractly and make generalizations from one setting to another. These limitations will cause a student to learn more slowly than others and to have difficulty with adaptive behaviors such as grooming, dressing, safety, school rules, understanding social rules, and seeing the consequences of their actions.

**Down with the R Word**

Intellectual disabilities have long been referred to as mental retardation. Not anymore! Rosa’s Law, which Congress passed in 2010, amended IDEA and other federal laws to replace the term *mental retardation* with the term *intellectual disabilities*.

This, of course, changes neither the special learning needs of students with intellectual disabilities nor the crucial role that schools and teachers play in helping students succeed in school and prepare for adult life.

**Practical Tips**

So—how do you address the learning needs of your students with intellectual disabilities? Here are 9 suggestions that you can use right away in your classroom and multiple links to more information.

1. **Recognize that you can make an enormous difference in this student’s life!** Learn more about intellectual disabilities in general and your student in particular. Create opportunities for success by emphasizing the strengths and interests of the student. Also learn where the student needs particular supports, and provide them (see #3 below).

2. **Be an active participant in the student’s IEP team.** Each student in special education must have an individualized education program (IEP) that lists learning goals for the student, the services the school will provide, and the evaluation procedures. Getting involved in your student’s IEP team can provide you with valuable information that you can use to help your student succeed.

3. **Collaborate with your student, peers, and colleagues.** Collaborating with everyone involved in your student’s life can help you make the most of their strengths and interests.

4. **Set up your classroom to promote success.** Use a systematic approach to create a classroom environment that promotes success for all students, including those with intellectual disabilities.

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For more information . . .

- NICHCY.org/dissemination
- [http://nichcy.org/whats-the-big-deal-about-pinterest](http://nichcy.org/whats-the-big-deal-about-pinterest)
- Mashable.com
- [www.NTEN.org](http://www.NTEN.org)

Or post/email the Dissemination Community of Practice via:

- Dissemination community on Tacomunities.org ([http://tacomunities.org/community/view/id/5008](http://tacomunities.org/community/view/id/5008))
- TA&D Dissemination group on NING ([http://tadnet.ning.com/group/dissemination](http://tadnet.ning.com/group/dissemination))