

unit  
1

## Education of Students with Disabilities: Goals &amp; Implications



*Interviewer: "If you had a wish what would it would be?"*

*Quinn: "I wish that everyone was treated equally and recognized for what they can do instead of what they can't."*

*--Quinn Price*

## Overview

Unit 1 presents five lessons providing general information about the education of students with disabilities. Lesson 1 will acquaint paraeducators with educational principles. Lesson 2 will describe characteristics of individuals with different kinds of disabilities and how best to interact with them. This lesson also briefly describes assistive technology and its growing role in allowing individuals with disabilities to be more independent. Lesson 3 examines legislation that has established the foundation of special education. Lesson 4 describes the "Least Restrictive Environment" concept and the importance of delivering instruction in integrated school settings. Lesson 5 introduces the Individual Education Plan (IEP).

Each unit in this program begins with an Overview. Each Overview includes definitions of terms. The following terms will be used throughout Unit 1.

### Key Terms

**ADAPTIVE BEHAVIOR:** The extent to which a person meets the personal and social standards expected of an age group and culture.

**ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY:** The use of devices that increase the ability of people to get along in society or that improve their quality of life (such as wheelchairs, computers, hearing aids, etc.).

**COOPERATIVE LEARNING:** Typical students work with students who have disabilities. Each group member assumes specific roles and responsibilities, carries out tasks, and reports back to the group.

**CURRICULUM-BASED ASSESSMENT (CBA):** The practice of obtaining direct and frequent measures of student performance on a series of sequentially arranged objectives derived directly from a classroom curriculum.

**FLEXIBLE GROUP:** A homogeneous group of typical students along with students with disabilities who function academically at different levels.

**HOMOGENEOUS GROUP:** Students who are placed together because they perform at the same academic level.

**INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM (IEP):** An individualized, written program that is developed and carried out by the members of the IEP Team.

**IEP TEAM:** A group of educational and related services personnel who develop, carry out, and evaluate the individual education plan, or IEP.

**INCLUSION:** Involving students with disabilities as active participants in general education classroom activities.

**INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENT:** A setting in which students with and without disabilities interact and learn together.

**LEAST RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT:** A location in which students have maximum opportunity to interact with students who do not have disabilities.

**MEASURABLE ANNUAL GOAL:** A measurable statement predicting what a student may achieve in one year.

**NEUROLOGICAL DISABILITIES:** Impairments that affect the nervous system and the brain.

**NORM-REFERENCED TESTS (such as achievement or intelligence tests):** Tests that produce scores which provide general indications as to the academic or intellectual performances of students in comparison to a “norm group,” or a large sample of scores from the general population.

**PARAEDUCATOR:** An assistant who works under the supervision of the teacher. (This term will be used instead of “paraprofessional,” “teaching assistant,” “classroom aide,” or other terms.)

**PEER TUTORING:** Typical students assist students with disabilities in guided or independent practice of academic skills or in training of social skills.

**PHYSICAL DISABILITIES:** Impairments that affect the development and movement of the body.

**PRESENT LEVEL OF PERFORMANCE.** This is a statement of how the student is currently performing in academic, social, or other areas. The Present Level of Performance statement is one component of an IEP.

**SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVE:** A statement of what level the IEP Team wants the student to achieve in a period of time. The short-term objective is one component of an IEP.