

Title of Session: Issues in Special Education
Moderator: Michael Simons and Benjamin Grad
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Room: After School Online Room

JeffC joined the room.

MichaelSi: Let's go for it -

MichaelSi: we can moderate ourselves, certainly!!

BenjaminG: Sp.Ed. hasn't quite started... our discussion person isn't here.

BenjaminG: whoa... is that allowed? ;-P

MichaelSi: well, we can 'go for it.'

TracyPW: Thank you for the info.

MichaelSi: hey, it's the 21st century baby

MichaelSi: How many special ed professionals do we have in here?

BenjaminG: First, though - did you know that you can go to "actions", scroll down to "detach" and get the chat window as a whole window?

JesseHo: Hi everyone from Dr. Leeper's class

BenjaminG: I'm regular ed, though you could consider my school to be practically all special ed - inner city with bad leadership, you know.

TracyPW: I am a sped interrelated teacher in Georgia, and yes in Leepers class

JeffC: You can look at my special ed links if you want in the meantime:

<http://www.mybookmarks.com/public/coops> (there is a special education folder there)

MichaelSi: Jeff, are you a moderator?

JamesWC: If it were not for the last minute, nothing ever would get done!

JeffC: Nope... just on Helpdesk... always looking to learn something new.

MichaelSi: never do today what you can do just as easily TOMORROW

JeffC: yeah... well... tomorrow has problems of its own.

MichaelSi: no kidding.

MichaelSi: amen

TracyPW: Does anyone team teach??

JamesWC: Do be a DoBEE, Miss Anne, Romper Room.

MariaVB: I am regular ed, this year a new librarian

JesseHo: I do

MichaelSi: so - I'm a high school special ed. teacher of kids with fairly profound learning disabilities and emotional/behavior problems in upstate New York. I teach 4 sections of English and a few electives

MariaVB: We have a lot of teachers that do CWC in my department

TracyPW: Do you feel that the regular ed. teacher is resentful of your duties?

BenjaminG: Do the regular ed teachers even know what your duties are?

JeffC: Don't be a don't be-- Miss MaryAnne Dobedobedo-- F. Sinatra ScoobeeDoo-- Hannah Barbera

JesseHo: What is this new acronym CWC?

MariaVB: Class Within A class

JeffC: Maybe it's the new IEP?

MichaelSi: With team teaching, are you supported by your administration to have time enough to collaborate and plan?

TracyPW: I think that is the problem. We are supposed to teach content, but then we are changed to different content areas every year. IT is difficult to know what we are supposed to do.

BenjaminG: come on, now... you know the answer's 'no'. Can't lead the questions into bitch and moan session already.

JesseHo: Not much time to plan. What is a class within a class?

MariaVB: It's a regular ed class with a signif number of spec ed kids and a spec ed teacher to assist

TracyPW: We call this team teaching or co-teaching

BenjaminG: Main stream model when you have too many kids, and the reg ed teachers are just going to fail them anyway.

JesseHo: That is what we call coteaching downwnnn here in the SOUTH!

MichaelSi: we have a self-contained situation, but we've taken a pretty neat approach -

MichaelSi: we have 62 kids,

MichaelSi: 6 teachers,

MichaelSi: and instead of all being 'jacks of all trades'

BenjaminG: btw, the top of your chat window has a toolbar marked 'font' if you want to make the font larger.

JesseHo: So are IEPs going to be streamlined even more in the future?

TracyPW: What do you mean by streamlined?

JesseHo: Less paperwork and maybe doing them only once every three years!

MichaelSi: we have 6-15 kids a period, but teach departmentally - I'm the english teacher, and the kids rotate to me...

JesseHo: Kind of the like bypassing an evaluation.

TracyPW: I would love that. Then we could concentrate on the real task, teaching.

MichaelSi: so they get a more approximate 'real high school' experience,

EllieR: I am a middle school English teacher in San Diego, and I team teach with our special ed. teacher for almost all of our classes.

MichaelSi: what with switching between classes, etc...

JeffC: You may also Detach the chat window, resize it and tile it with your main browser... to make it easy to read the scrolling text while still maintaining contact with the main window.

<http://snurl.com/tiledwindows> (gives an example of this)

MichaelSi: it works well!

TracyPW: Ellie, do you feel your sped teacher does an equal share of the work?

EllieR: That's great - how are the Sp Ed. kids integrated socially??

JesseHo: Some do and some do not in my county.

BenjaminG: We got a kickbutt sp.ed. teacher in the building who introduced everybody to the concept of "IEP". The sp.ed. teachers were writing them and getting people to sign them, when no one had actually attended the IEP meetings at all. Then they were getting filed and nobody ever saw them.

MichaelSi: the kids have 'specials' out and mainstreamed as much as possible,

EllieR: Yes - the sp. ed. teacher is amazing

MichaelSi: and lunches, etc., etc...

MichaelSi: granted,

TracyPW: Ben, that is a big no in our school.

MichaelSi: it's still not a REAL, true mainstreamed experience,

BenjaminG: It's a big no no now!

BenjaminG: She busted them bigtime, kicked it right to the district.

BenjaminG: They made her sped chair.

TracyPW: Ellie, but does she equally share teaching content or just providing support?

MichaelSi: but we do the best we can with the knowledge that our students' needs supersede what we might want to give them...

MariaVB: I think most of our teachers who "coteach" don't think the spec. ed teachers

MichaelSi: some of them truly *can't* handle it.

EllieR: she is there mostly for behavioral issues and big academic projects

JesseHo: Who is our leader?

MichaelSi: we don't have one, Jesse

BenjaminG: Here's a question...

TracyPW: Sometimes I feel like a parapro

MariaVB: do as much. But I think they have different responsibilities

JesseHo: Moderator? whatever?

MichaelSi: we're self-moderating

JamesWC: Please, take me to our leader!

MariaVB: Is the moderator coming?

JesseHo: OH! so this is sort of a potpourri for SPED

MichaelSi: no idea

MichaelSi: we have no way of knowing

MichaelSi: they're now 15 minutes late,

TracyPW: I think the discussion has gone well so far

MichaelSi: 1/4 of our time together gone

MichaelSi: yes.

JamesWC: Hurry up and wait

MichaelSi: well,

JesseHo: Can we leave like the myth about leaving a prof's lecture in college after 15

MichaelSi: I'm enjoying chatting

MichaelSi: hahhaa - love that myth

BenjaminG: If you grade a kid on their IEP, which means that they have officially 'passed' the course according to their IEP, by making progress to required elements in their mathematics...what do you do when they don't have the skills necessary to go on to the next mainstreamed course?

MichaelSi: we have an IEP DIPLOMA

MichaelSi: anyone else?

MichaelSi: they're measured against their GOALS, not their academic achievement

MichaelSi: thus,

MichaelSi: if they progress,

MichaelSi: and the IEP team

SusanR joined the room.

MichaelSi: is happy with benchmarks,

TracyPW: Ben, I think there is a big issue. Many teachers will go ahead and pass students on to the next grade level in elem and middle but the problem is they can't get passed up in high school. This makes for angry parents.

MichaelSi: then we give them a different diploma

JesseHo: Students are getting passed everywhere all the time until they hit the 9th grade

MichaelSi: not the Regents or Regular diploma the mainstreamed kids who've achieved get.

BenjaminG: They get passed 9, 10, 11, 12 at my school. I just quit, without actually getting a new job for the fall.

BenjaminG: guess I'm a sub now.

TracyPW: Jesse, and don't you think they are blown away when they find out they actually have to pass a class by regular standards. Most fail and then drop out of school.

JesseHo: What we need are apprentice programs and trade schools for those who are not interested in going to school any longer

EllieR: My brother has CP and his high school home ec. teacher gave him a D in cooking!! So many teachers don't understand that IEPs are individualized goal sets!

MichaelSi: ahhh- the power of VocTech!

MichaelSi: we have a great Voc program;

MichaelSi: I have kids who can't

JesseHo: Tracy, I agree we set them up for failure

MichaelSi: write their way out of a paperbag

MichaelSi: but will be making

TracyPW: Definitely more transition skills needed for the workforce so we can educate students.

MichaelSi: more \$\$\$ than any of us

MichaelSi: when they're driving bulldozers

MichaelSi: know what I mean?

JesseHo: Yes, but I do not want to drive a bulldozer

MichaelSi: that's fine,

MichaelSi: but we need to realize

MichaelSi: that everyone WON'T be a teacher, doctor, or accountant.

MichaelSi: the world NEEDS 'dozer drivers.

TracyPW: In fact, I think that all students should be provided with technical skills.

JesseHo: Agreed

BenjaminG: Seriously,, though... go easy on the reg ed teachers - in our case nobody had ever told us what an IEP really was about until this year. The screams of outrage were through the roof, because teachers would have been willing to grade on IEPs if they had ever seen them.

JesseHo: I could use some technical skills myself. Ask my wife!

JeffC: When I supported a middle school computer lab, I helped a SPED student by getting her an email account (helped with her aid). At the time they had her using 2nd grade reading material (she was in the 7th grade)... using email... I had her create a dialectic journal with her mother... in two weeks... her sentence length doubled.

JamesWC: Cool

MichaelSi: wow

JesseHo: Way to go Jeff!

JeffC: How many of you use project based learning with your sped students?

TracyPW: I think both parties are to blame. Every teacher is so busy, it is hard to take the time to inform each other of the reg. and special ed. needs.

MichaelSi: administration needs to lead well, too

TracyPW: Never used project based learning. I have done service learning. Is it the same thing?

TracyPW: Michael, I agree

MichaelSi: project-based somewhat close to portfolio?

JesseHo: Project based learning is fun but in the standards society we live in we do not have the time to do it very much.

MichaelSi: portfolio works WELL with my sp. ed. students because I'm grading them against their OWN improvements,

MichaelSi: you know??

EllieR: I use project based learning with all my students. I think its great for them to work towards ends they will be proud of rather than

JeffC: Don't think so Tracy. My advice (as a non sped educator)... go to <http://www.epals.com> and register... then create email accounts for all your students. Have them hook up with other students around the world and start writing... get them involved... you can even specify that you want them to hook up with other sped students (or not).

TracyPW: Give me an example of some of the project based learning.

MichaelSi: of course, I've struggled with maintaining interest and 'drive' with my students through the course of project-based learning....

TracyPW: Thanks, Jeff

JesseHo: Motivation and getting my students to work out of class remains a problem

JeffC: One example: Newsday <http://www.gsn.org/gsh/project/newsday/>

MichaelSi: <my wife uses Epals for French class and French pen pals !>

EllieR: Shakespeare skits, mythology posters, portfolios, research projects, book projects, etc.

TracyPW: I am teaching an affective skills class this year. I need suggestions for high school behavior disordered students.

JeffC: If you want to see what I did with my 9th graders at Richmond High (who weren't classified officially as sped, but many read at the third grade level... which qualifies)... take a look at <http://snurl.com/netc1>

MichaelSi: TRACY -

MichaelSi: google search "Getting Along with Others"

MichaelSi: it's a book set

MichaelSi: that teaches 'getting along' skills

MichaelSi: REAL nice

EllieR: Thank you Michael!

MichaelSi: you bet - see if you can find it on google.

MichaelSi: it's a bound book, and a spiral resource book;

MichaelSi: a twin set.

TracyPW: Thanks for all the great suggestions.

JeffC: My running joke at RHS was: What's the difference between freshman English and SPED? Answer: 20 students per class

MichaelSi: basically a curriculum for a progression of social skills, etc...

TracyPW: HaHa

JesseHo: Does anyone think that study skills should be a required class for high school students?

MichaelSi: YES -

TracyPW: Study skills is just a place for kids to goof off.

MichaelSi: that and TYPING

MichaelSi: TYPING

MichaelSi: TYPING

MichaelSi: I swear to all things holy,

MichaelSi: when I learned to type PROPERLY in HSchool,

JamesWC: I think that a class in study skills should be required!

JeffC: I think if your study skills incorporated ways to get students to become engaged and motivated involved learners... yes.

MichaelSi: it was a god-send;

MichaelSi: I can type 80 words a minute,

MichaelSi: and in college,

MichaelSi: holy cow -

JesseHo: NOT TRUE! There is are entire curriculums dedicated to study skills. Google it!

MichaelSi: when my friends were hunting and pecking, I'd leave the lab 5 hours earlier than them

MariaVB: I think study skills should be required for ALL students

MichaelSi: study skills, typing BOTH, IMO

TracyPW: I try to get the regular ed. teachers involved in study skills. If a student does not finish work, they can put it in the study skills teacher box. IT has worked very well.

MariaVB: and typing is very important even in non professional jobs

JamesWC: If study skills class is wasted time, what is the responsibility of the student?

JesseHo: I still hunt and peck!

MichaelSi: absolutely - hey, we're a typing-based society, I believe... it's where we're going.

TracyPW: I agree with the typing as well.

MichaelSi: hard habits to break

MariaVB: I don't think the moderator is gonna show, 30 min late

MichaelSi: no kidding.

MichaelSi: hey, it's just good to talk with folks.

JesseHo: WELL maybe they are tired out from the festival:)

MariaVB: I just want to do my assignment

MichaelSi: what's a festival in here?

JamesWC: This is very immoderate of our moderator!

MichaelSi: well, Maria, our assignment can be just as much about what went wrong as what went right

JeffC: Yesterday was the Festival... an annual day-long event here.

MichaelSi: so we can give that feedback

MariaVB: exactly

MichaelSi: what's its purpose?

TracyPW: Study skills could be a great class and may be at many schools, but it is not taken seriously at our school. This year, only students in College Prep can take study skills.

Brenda`W: how many in here are in 440?

JesseHo: 440?

MichaelSi: Caplow's class? ME

MichaelSi: and I'm tanking.

JeffC: I presented on my topic: Building 21st Century Collaborative Learning Communities... the same url I gave you was an article I wrote that was the springboard for the discussion <http://snurl.com> ... it does have ideas that sped teachers could use.

TracyPW: Okay

Brenda`W: why are you tanking?

JeffC: whoops... <http://snurl.com/netc1>

JesseHo: it looks like I will be "snurling"!

TracyPW: Okay, again

MichaelSi: having a hard time with the prof and my own balancing of responsibilities to my job; most of it's my fault, but still frustrating

JamesWC: Nothing hard is ever easy.

Brenda`W: same here she isn't too forgiving

MichaelSi: and most things worth doing aren't easy.

TracyPW: I think I am missing an internal conversation here.

MichaelSi: apologies, Tracy.

MichaelSi: that was rude of us - sorry.

MichaelSi -(

JamesWC: In a minute there is time for visions and revisions that a minute will reverse.

JesseHo: Let's talk about something, Please

JesseHo: IIDEAS?????????

TracyPW: apology accepted.

MariaVB: Let me open a can of worms

MichaelSi: go for it, Maria!

TracyPW: What about thoughts on inclusion?

MariaVB: I am a regular ed teacher

JeffC: Ever consider with all the paperwork you have to do in sped... to start creating online portfolios for your students? There's a free and open source software available: <http://www.theospi.org/>

MariaVB: many teachers complain about the scores students receive on tests

MariaVB: after going to the resource room

MichaelSi: too high?

MariaVB: yes

JesseHo: Let's skip inclusion and talk about being highly qualified teachers for SPED

MichaelSi: ahhh,

MichaelSi: yes.

JamesWC: What responsibility does the student have for his/her scores?

Brenda`W: I am an 8th grade teacher

TracyPW: Cool. I just think that the only sped paperwork should just be goals. All the other information is not useful.

Brenda`W: and my sped teacher couldn't help her kids with finding percents

MichaelSi: well, prose-y background information is helpful

JesseHo: Inclusion is great, but do you think that every teacher needs to be certified in their area(sped) and in the subject area they teach?

TracyPW: What do reg. ed. teachers think could aid sped teachers to become more content knowledgeable

MariaVB: That's tough

MichaelSi: on-the-job learning

Brenda`W: a degree in the area elem, middle, hs

MariaVB: I think doing some of the co-teaching we talked about earlier

Brenda`W: our teacher was elem reading certified in a 8th grade math room

TracyPW: I don't know if you have to be certified. I just think that we should be placed in an area for many years to develop our content skills just like reg. ed. teachers can do.

MariaVB: It is a hard position because high school teachers have to deal with a lot of content

MichaelSi: alrighty, gang - I need to summarize some of this and scoot; losing faith in a moderated discussion forming any time soon - NOT to say this hasn't been good; it has been...

MariaVB: that is not a bad idea, does that pigeonhole you too much?

MichaelSi: but I'm going to post to our class....

TracyPW: Maria, this is true and with a shortage in sped teachers, we are often shuffled to wherever there is a need

MichaelSi: one and all, take care, and fare thee well.

MariaVB: bye Michael

JeffC: Think I'll throw out a few links: Council for Exceptional Children:

<http://www.cec.sped.org/>

JesseHo: I have to get certified in Math for example by 2007-2008 maybe. This is Calculus and hard-to-do proofs and stuff. But I only teach applied algebra and Euclidean geometry

JamesWC: Va ya con Dios.

TracyPW: I use Idonline all the time

JesseHo: It is hard enough to get SPED teachers, but making them get even more schooling seems a bit ridiculous

JeffC: Special Education Resources on the Internet <http://seriweb.com/>

JesseHo: This transcript is going to be a wonderful resource for me

TracyPW: Jesse, I agree. I taught biology for 2 years and this past year, I felt pretty good about the content. If given this year to teach in the same area, I feel that I would have compared to the reg. ed. teachers, but I am teaching US History this year.

JeffC: SERI Special Needs and Technology Resources <http://www.seriweb.com/tech.htm>

TracyPW: Jeff, what do you teach? You have so many resources

SusanR: Some of the issues and challenges you are facing have been discussed at Education World http://www.education-world.com/special_ed/

JeffC: I used to be the Education Technology Specialist for the College of Education at Pacific University... helping MAT (and yes... SPED) students, professors, etc... integrating tech with curriculum... but I was laid off due to budget cuts.

TracyPW: This has been my best discussion yet.

JesseHo: This is the most I have ever talked. I like the open forum

JeffC: You have to do what you can... no moderator... go and learn something... what the heck?!

TracyPW: Off the subject, how do you make comments Jeff without it highlighted?

JeffC: type a colon followed by words :nods

JeffC: nods

SusanR: winks

JamesWC: If life gives you a lemon, make

JeffC: applesauce!

TracyPW: Tracy:nods back

TracyPW: That did not work

JeffC: . o O (no need to type your name first)

TracyPW: nodding again

SusanR: Type :nods back

TracyPW: Thanks

JeffC: those are thought bubbles... type: /th words

JesseHo: nod, nod nod

JeffC: You got it

JeffC: Here is something for you sped educators

JesseHo: Wow. I think I'll be back

TracyPW: Okay, know we are really talking about important stuff

SusanR: checks her backflip file

JeffC: type: /project url (you can open a URL on remote computers)... DON'T EVERYONE DO IT! Who wants to volunteer?

JeffC: Consider this... you can open a link on everyone else's computer... see any use in the K-12 setting... whether sped or not?

TracyPW: Sounds good

JamesWC: Tim, anything to say?

JeffC: <http://www.teachersdomain.org/tdhome.html>

TracyPW: Well, how about one more sped topic. Think

TimW: wakes up

TimW: Bill, did you say something?

TracyPW: How many of your schools offer full inclusion of all students with disabilities?

JeffC: I think sped kids could really get into LOTF

TimW: Actually, I'm enjoying the conversation and resources (links), thanks Jeff

JesseHo: Tracy, always back to the topic

JamesWC: Way Cool!

TracyPW: I'm trying

JeffC: How many schools offer anything that really gets kids to enjoy learning?

JesseHo: I have found that students like to get the teacher off topic

TracyPW: I think we have stuck to the traditional teaching methods, and sped kids especially loose interest

TracyPW: Jesse, a lot like this discussion

TimW: Any advice for someone beginning their first year as a teacher?

JesseHo jesse smiles

JeffC: so transcend the traditional... yeah... get the teacher (and the school for that matter)... off topic... how can you really reach kids to want to enjoy learning?

JeffC: yeah Tim: two words: real estate

TracyPW: I think finding individual interests

JamesWC: To Tim, Plastics

TracyPW: direct instruction to some of those areas

JeffC: Darn... James has the better answer.

JeffC: Do you really think direct instruction is the best answer?

TracyPW: I didn't mean "Direct instruction", I just meant to focus instruction on their interests.

JeffC: Yes... you're right Tracy.

JeffC: Now... if their interests lie outside of your own... what will you do?

JeffC: How will you facilitate them in pursuing their interests? Or will you?

JesseHo: All right last question Kerry or Bush? This is educational right!?

TracyPW: Surveys work great to find out their interests. There is always a way to tie that in to instruction and even bring in examples or have the students bring in things.

JamesWC: Politics is applesauce

TimW: or Nader?

TracyPW: Any responses

JeffC: That's a good answer Tracy... btw... check out <http://www.surveykey.com> ...online surveys... have kids make them!

JeffC: How about getting virtual guest speakers into the classroom... or even virtual mentors for your students?

TracyPW: You just have all the websites, Jeff.

JeffC: Kinda like magic isn't it?

TracyPW: We talked about virtual speakers in our class tonight

JesseHo: I am trying a survey out right now but noncompliance is rampant

JeffC: Pick a topic or theme... and I'll give you a site or an idea.

TracyPW: Sorry Jesse

JeffC: noncompliance= American education

TracyPW: Good Jeff

JesseHo: Guys it has been a pleasure!

TracyPW: Volunteer opportunities in Georgia. I need information for my school

JeffC: now... think about it... everyone is burning out big time... and NCLB is exacerbating this... how do we transcend the current malaise and state of American politics in education and get some fun back into learning?

JamesWC: Know why ponies can't talk? They are a little hoarse.

JeffC: You want to figure out ways for Georgia students to volunteer?

JesseHo: I am in a malaise

TracyPW: Jeff, I don't know. I will tell you how I feel about NCLB. I feel that with more assessments to measure success, we will continue to have more students fail, more students drop out, and therefore leave more children behind.

JeffC: Try this for starters: <http://atlanta.about.com/od/charities/>

JamesWC: Blaming your faults on your nature does not change the nature of your faults.

JeffC: assessment sucks

TracyPW: Thanks, Jeff

JeffC: unless it's via an online portfolio system that truly gives educators a chance to see how students progress (or don't) from year to year.

JeffC: that online portfolio site again: <http://www.theospi.org/index.php>

TracyPW: Assessment is fine, but when it keeps a Senior from graduating that have passed all classes, it is sad and unfair.

JeffC: sped teachers have it really bad... because of the bureaucracy you become so enmeshed in paperwork that really finding out exciting ways to get IEPs happening becomes almost impossible.

TracyPW: The paperwork is a lot. I get frustrated because I want to concentrate on lesson plans, but often I am diverted.

JeffC: what good is a grade or a number? what does it represent? is it truly accomplishing anything? can I, as an employer or even a teacher... begin to truly understand where a student is coming from, or where they want to go by looking at a cume folder or a stack of IEPs?

JeffC: I have about two dozen links to excellent lesson plan sites at <http://www.mybookmarks.com/public/coops> ...ever think of really getting the parents and students involved in choosing their own curriculum?

JesseHo: Paperwork is getting easier because of technology.

TracyPW: I could for this new class I am teaching. There is not curriculum for me this year.

JeffC: Let them look at the lesson plan sites... the N.Y.Times Lesson Plan Archive is the best... but it's for grades 6-12...

JeffC: Yeah... you have programs now that help you write your IEPs for you... but does that truly make your life easier as a teacher? I hope it cuts down the hours having to fill out the forms... but does it direct you in new and exciting ways to reach your students? I hope so... but doubt it... I really think that educators need a lot more support in all areas... along with their students... to really get going.

TracyPW: Jeff, thank you for the many resources. It is greatly appreciated.

JeffC: no sweat

JeffC: just got on a rant/roll there for a bit... see what happens when your moderator doesn't show up? chaos!

TimW: Thanks everyone

TracyPW: We stayed on the subject well.

JeffC: who was your moderator supposed to be btw?

JeffC: Heyentah Holzman... just looked it up

TracyPW: for what

JeffC: supposed to be the moderator today

TracyPW: OH

JamesWC: Like a cop, where are they when you need 'em?

SusanR: Hey you may want to check out the latest buzz at the teachers.net chatboard

SusanR: http://teachers.net/mentors/special_education/

JeffC: Students with exceptional needs (SWENs) may have experienced failure, shame, and frustration in school so often they become disheartened and may give up on more than just school. Others, while not quite giving up, just barely make it from one year to the next, but with no real skill mastery. In this discussion, we'll look at some common "coping" and "avoidance" strategies employed by these students. Heyentah Holzman will discuss teaching strategies that can make a difference, and more in the ASO on July 22. These discussions are formally informal! While there is a set agenda, no topic is taboo, although we may elect to turn your question into a discussion all on its own!

JeffC: just pasted in today's topic...

TracyPW: Well, that does us a whole lot of good now.

JeffC: yeah... well... I think several of the issues were touched on...

TracyPW: I think so too

JeffC: gotta think about strategies that make a difference

JeffC: and I think they're usually outside the box that we find ourselves in.

TracyPW: Good nite to you.

TracyPW: Thanks for a good group.

JeffC: Yeah... but I'm sure all the kids call it Dracula

TracyPW: Susan, are you in Leeper's class?

SusanR: No I am K to 8 Occasional Teacher..some experience with spec ed students both in the computer lab, classroom and in small groups

TracyPW: Oh

SusanR: I understand the challenges you are experiencing. They seem to work best in group settings using the jigsaw grouping strategy or cooperative learning groups

TracyPW: This is hard in a resource class with only five students.

TracyPW: Many of them won't work with each other. They can't stop making fun of each other even in HS

SusanR: I have experienced that

TracyPW: Thank you for your input, but I have to go to get the kids in bed. Thank you everyone.