

Title of Session: Special Education Forum
Moderator: BJ Berquist
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Room: After School Online

SusanSchm: Hi! I'm here for the forum!

BJB2: Hi, Susan!

BJB2: you're the first to arrive

BJB2: so you can get a seat right up front

SusanSchm: This is my first forum, but I have read some of the transcripts

SusanSchm: I just got my Java working

BJB2: reading the transcripts helps...as does Java

SusanSchm: I tried to participate at last month's forum, but no luck, so I just read it instead

BJB2: so you've not participated in any of the TI events?

SusanSchm: no

SusanSchm: this is my first!

SusanR joined the room.

BJB2: hi, Sue

BJB2 hopes Paul will be here shortly

SusanR . o O (Brooke gone)

SusanR hopes so too

BJB2: SusanS, SueR leads the K-3+ Resources Forum here in Tapped In

SusanSchm: I was looking at her info

SusanR: Feel free to join. There are resources there you may find useful with Spec Ed students.

SusanSchm: I teach middle school, so do you think that would apply?

SusanR: Is that 6 to 8

SusanSchm: yes

SusanR: maybe

BJB2: while we wait for Paul, let's do a bit of housekeeping

SusanSchm: ok....

DavidWe joined the room.

BJB2: SusanS, go to the ACTIONS menu in the top right of your chat window and click on DETACH

DavidWe waves

BJB2: hi, David

DavidWe: Hi

SusanSchm: done

BJB2: can you each introduce yourself and tell us where you are located and what you teach?

SusanSchm: My name is SusanS, I teach Special Ed grades 6-8. I am from NE Missouri.

BJB2: I'm an art teacher in a juvenile correctional facility in Pennsylvania

SusanR: K to 8 Occasional teacher from Ontario, Canada. Today I taught grade 6.

SusanSchm: What does Occasional mean?

DavidWe: She teaches on Mondays and Thursdays

DavidWe grins

DavidWe: That's a joke.

SusanR: Substitute..sub

BJB2 rolls her eyes at David

SusanR: I teach when I am short of money

DavidWe is listening to Ihor on the phone as he types

SusanSchm: ok, just didn't recognize the term

DavidWe smiles

SusanR: or when I miss the classroom

DavidWe smiles

DavidWe: Kahoka, Missouri, huh?

DavidWe smiles

BJB2: Looks like we're going to have an informal discussion unless Paul shows up.
Susan, what do you hope to get out of this discussion?

SusanSchm: I don't know...anything I guess.

SusanSchm: It's the end of the year...

SusanR: how to best motivate spec ed students

SusanSchm: hmmm.... good question

BJB2: the age group you teach is difficult...under the best of conditions

SusanSchm: I guess I just like to share ideas and listen to others' situations

SusanR: and keep them engaged..actually all students at this time of year.

SusanSchm: I only have two days left!

SusanSchm: I'm really looking forward to next year.

SusanR: lucky you

SusanSchm: I will be working with a new teacher and a new group of students.

BJB2: two days? Yikes

SusanSchm: So, really we will just be taking finals... and trying to keep them out of trouble.

BJB2: busy is good.

BJB2: so we need to brainstorm activities

SusanSchm: yeah, but hard at the end of the school year

SusanSchm: I have a lot of games in the classroom that I use..

BJB2: do you have stations in your room?

SusanR: I will leave you in BJ and David's expert hands. I have been called away again.

SusanR left the room (signed off).

DavidWe waves bye

SusanSchm: No, it's a very small room

SusanSchm: I have 10 desks shoved in there

BJB2: what resources do you have?

SusanSchm: what kind of resources, games, manipulatives?

SusanSchm: I have several games, one computer

BJB2: that's what I'm asking. What about reading to the students

BJB2: you know your students better than I do....can they work in teams?

SusanSchm: I do that during reading class, but they start disliking that quickly.

BJB2: do you use picture books?

BJB2: oh...wait a sec. I found a great site yesterday for rebus flash cards

SusanSchm: what is rebus?

BJB2: pictures that represent words

SusanSchm: I have been playing apples to apples with them lately

SusanSchm: Have you heard of that game?

BJB2: no, I'm not familiar with it...can you tell me more?

SusanSchm: There are red cards and green cards, one color is nouns, and the other is adjectives

SusanSchm: You have 5-7 nouns in your hand, one person throws down an adj card and the students have to put down a noun that is described by the adjective

SusanSchm: Only problem is that sometimes the students can't read the words!

BJB2 nods

SusanSchm: Then whoever put down the adj card has to judge the "best" or "funniest" noun

SusanSchm: It's pretty fun... if the kids know what they are doing

SusanSchm: I have a wide range of abilities in my group

BJB2: http://www.fun-with-words.com/rebus_puzzles.html Make sure you hold down the ctrl key when you click on the url

BJB2: yes, that is the nature of sped classes

SusanSchm: do I do that now... I don't want to leave the forum

BJB2: you shouldn't leave...a new page should open for you

SusanSchm: cool, got it

BJB2: some of those would be too difficult, but a few might work

SusanSchm: Ok, I've seen these before. I have a book of them somewhere

BJB2: have the kids work in teams to see who can solve the most

SusanSchm: Is there a way to print them off. I don't have access to the internet in my room

BJB2: you could just print out the webpage.

DavidWe listens

SusanSchm: k, looks like there are some other resources there too.

DavidWe will be in Reception

BJB2: the site I was looking for isn't available right now...my email site is down

SusanSchm: I found palindromes...one of my students was trying to think of some for her class just the other day.

BJB2: the problem with using rebuses and palindromes is that many sped kids just don't 'get' it

SusanSchm: yeah, but I think some of my kids could... it's good to try to get them to think about it

BJB2: I agree.

SusanSchm: We are expected to get them to think the same way as the "rest of the students"

BJB2: that's a tall order...especially since the 'rest of the students' don't always think the same way

SusanSchm: How are the students in Pennsylvania tested?

SusanSchm: We have the MAP tests, we just finished

BJB2: we have tests too.

SusanSchm: Are sped students expected to take the same tests as reg. ed students?

BJB2: yep

SusanSchm: I have been feeling pressure from admin. to get our students to follow the same curriculum as reg ed.

SusanSchm: we just can't keep up or perform at the same level

BJB2 nods

BJB2: did you get the IDEA newsletter I forwarded to the Special Ed group?

SusanSchm: I'm not sure...

SusanSchm: I just got one about early reading intervention

BJB2: let's go to the group room and take a look

SusanSchm: ok... how do I do that?

BJB2: look on your favorite places menu

BJB2: you should have a link to the group room

SusanSchm left the room.

BJB2 left the room.

Room: Special Education Forum Group

BJB2 joined the room.

BJB2: look at the menu on the left of the page and click on DISCUSSION

SusanSchm: k, there

BJB2: Access Center Newsletter

SusanSchm: I think I got this.. But I wasn't sure about the webinar

BJB2: check out <http://www.cast.org/policy/resources/index.html> National Center on Accessing the General Curriculum (NCAC) case studies

BJB2: NCAC staff developed case stories that pertain specifically to improving access to and progress within the general education curriculum.

SusanSchm: What do you know about class-within-a-class?

SusanSchm: have you had any experience?

BJB2: experience with what?

BJB2: 80% of our kids are special ed

BJB2: we mainstream them all

SusanSchm: class-within-a-class, is a type of push-in program

BJB2: and are able to increase reading levels by 2 years in 6 to 9 months

SusanSchm: We have self-contained classrooms as well as mainstreaming (CWC)

BJB2: how does class within a class work differently

SusanSchm: so there are no self-contained classrooms?

SusanSchm: a resource teacher works with a reg ed teacher within the classroom.

BJB2: no

SusanSchm: that would be nice!

BJB2: the classes are small and that helps a lot

BJB2: . o O (10-12 in a class)

SusanSchm: We have a hard time convincing reg ed teachers to make accommodations for our severe students

SusanSchm: one of my CWC classes has 23

BJB2 shakes her head...that connection with the resource teacher is so important!

SusanSchm: we have serious financial problems in our district. We cut one teacher at the middle school this next year

BJB2: a special ed teacher?

SusanSchm: no...

SusanSchm: we have about 34 on our case load with 2 sped teachers

BJB2: here's the rebus site I was looking before earlier

BJB2: <http://www.rozies.com/Zzzz/Ringers/Pages/warmup1.html>

SusanSchm: thanks!

BJB2: it's a very cool site...marked at 5-12th grade

SusanSchm: I will probably be able to keep them busy...if nothing else, putting up their books and such.

SusanSchm: We will be reviewing for their finals..it's pretty hard

BJB2: just thought of one other thing you can do...let me see if I can find the site. Yes, review is tough. Do you play jeopardy type games?

SusanSchm: no, not really, I saw some in my college courses, but seemed like a lot of prep

SusanSchm: we play a lot of card games....simple and easy

BJB2 nods.

BJB2: <http://analyzer.depaul.edu/paperplate/activities.htm>

SusanSchm: looks interesting

BJB2: not the one I was looking for though

SusanSchm: Well, hate to run...but got to get my husband something for supper

SusanSchm: Thanks for all your help!

BJB2: If I come up with the site I'll email it to you

BJB2: nice talking with you, Susan

SusanSchm: ok, thanks! see you next time!

BJB2: <http://analyzer.depaul.edu/paperplate/>

BJB2: that's the site I wanted to find

SusanSchm: ok

BJB2: look at the plate as art...very cool

SusanSchm: wow! Well talk to ya later!

BJB2 waves goodnight