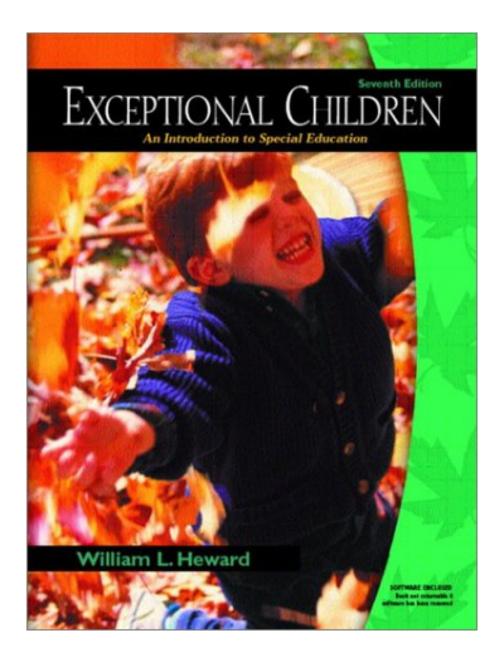


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But what matters most in special education, the foundation without which everything would fall apart, is good instruction, day in and day out. And at the level where it matters most, special education is ultimately about the quality of instruction provided by teachers.

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By A Customer

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By Holly Go-Lightly

This is a great book for teachers to learn more about dealing with children who have exceptionalities. If you are a new teacher or an experienced teacher dealing with inclusion, this book will be perfect for you!

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I recently looked through the later edition of this book and much of the information is still the same. I bought it for a reference not to use in a class

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Special education is an ongoing story of people. It is the story of a preschool child with multiple disabilities who benefits from early intervention services. It is the story of a child with mental retardation whose parents and teachers work together to ensure she participates in classroom and extracurricular activities with her peers. It is the story of a middle school student with learning disabilities who helps his parents and teachers plan his instructional program that builds upon his strengths and addresses his weaknesses. It is the story of the gifted and talented child who brings new insights to old problems, the high school student with cerebral

palsy who is learning English as his second language, and the young woman with visual impairments who has recently moved into her own apartment and rides a city bus to work. Special education is also the story of parents and families of exceptional children and of the teachers and other professionals who work with them.

I hope you will find the seventh edition of Exceptional Children an informative, accessible, and interesting introduction to the ongoing story of special education, a rapidly changing field that is still in its formative years. Whether you are an undergraduate enrolled in or thinking of applying to a preservice teacher training program or a general education teacher with years of experience, I encourage you to continue your study and involvement with children and adults with special needs. For you, too, can make a worthwhile contribution to the still unfinished story of special education.

# TEXT ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE

My goals for this book are to present an informative, readable, and responsible introduction to the professional practices, trends, and research that define the field while at the same time conveying the diversity and excitement that characterize contemporary special education. To this end, the book begins with "A Personal View of Special Education"—eight perspectives on the purpose and responsibilities of special education—followed by fifteen chapters organized into two parts.

Part 1—Foundations for Understanding Special Education—includes four chapters. Chapter 1 presents an overview of terminology, laws, policies, and practices that are consistent with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the exceptional child's right to receive an appropriate education in the least restrictive environment. Chapter 2 examines the referral, assessment, and placement of students in special education. Chapter 3 describes how to respect, appreciate, and respond appropriately to the cultural and linguistic differences that some children with special needs bring to the classroom. Chapter 4 discusses the important role parents and families play in the decision-making process for planning the individual education needs of their children and how special educators can form effective partnerships with parents.

Part 2—Educational Needs of Exceptional Students—is organized around nine categorical chapters within a developmental lifespan perspective. Chapter 5 opens Part 2 with a look at early childhood special education and the critical role early intervention plays in nurturing the development of young children with special needs and those who are at risk for acquiring disabilities. Chapter 15 closes Part 2 with a discussion of transition from secondary school and the responsibility educators and parents share in preparing students with exceptionalities for adulthood. Chapters 6 through 14, the chapters that fall between early intervention and transition, introduce you to the definitions, prevalence, causes, historical background, assessment techniques, instructional strategies, placement alternatives, and current issues and future trends for specific categories of exceptional educational needs, including children who are gifted and talented.

#### KEY TEXT FEATURES ESSAYS BY SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS

New to this edition, each chapter opens with a first-person essay by a special education teacher. For example, you will get to know Douglas Jackson of El Paso, Texas, a special educator with 17 years experience who uses puppet plays to teach students who are deaf and hard of hearing. Diane Ellis shares some of her multifaceted responsibilities as a special educator who selects and designs assistive technologies for students with autism and severe disabilities in Nebraska. Michelle Fundora San, just beginning her second year of teaching students with emotional and behavioral disorders at a middle school in Miami, describes her experience and perspectives as a newcomer to the profession. Jeanna Mora Dowse shares her experiences working as an itinerant teacher of Navajo children with visual impairments in Arizona. Drawn from urban, suburban, and rural school districts across the country, the 15 featured teachers share personal experiences and wisdom on topics such as "what I like best about being a special educator," "my biggest challenge," "my

most significant accomplishment," and "suggestions for someone considering a career in special education." After reading each teacher's essay, you can learn more about his or her classroom and students by visiting the Teacher Feature module on the Companion Website (www.prenhall.com/heward). FOCUS QUESTIONS

Each chapter begins with five questions that provide a framework for studying the chapter and its implications. These Focus Questions serve as discussion starters for introducing, overviewing, concluding, or reviewing. Open-ended questions can be found on the Message Board on the Companion Website (www.prenhall.com/heward), which allows you to engage in interactive discussions with your classmates. CEC PERFORMANCE-BASED STANDARDS AND PRAXIS II TESTS

Although special education teacher certification and licensure requirements vary from state to state, all special educators are expected to demonstrate a common set of competencies. The Council for Exceptional Children's (CEC) Performance-Based Standards for Beginning Special Education Teachers is a comprehensive set of knowledge and skill standards organized within 10 domain areas (e.g., Foundations, Individual Learning Differences, Instructional Strategies, Assessment). The CEC Standards were developed in collaboration with the Interstate New Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium (INTASC) and serve as the basis for curriculum content of teacher preparation programs approved by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). The PRAXIS II<sup>TM</sup> tests—the Subject Assessment/Specialty Area Tests of the PRAXIS Series of Professional Assessments for Beginning Teachers<sup>TM</sup>—assess students' knowledge of these content standards. Many states require a passing score on one or more PRAXIS II tests for licensure or certification as a special education teacher.

Through joint agreements with CEC and the Educational Testing Service, new margin notes link critical text content to specific knowledge and skill statements from CEC's Performance-Based Standards for Beginning Teachers and to material covered on PRAXIS II<sup>TM</sup> tests for special educators. Look for margin notes such as the one shown here with CEC and PRAXIS icons throughout the text.

# EFFECTIVE TEACHING STRATEGIES

Educating students with exceptional learning needs has always posed complex and difficult challenges. Yet more is expected of today's special education teachers than ever before. For example, today's special educator must ensure students' access to the general education curriculum while at the same time teach them functional skills needed for daily living and successful transition from school to life in the community and workplace. Today's special educator is expected to collaboratively plan and carry out inclusive practices with their general education colleagues while being responsive to the needs and wishes of families. Today's special educator must manage a mountain of paperwork and the challenge of preparing students for state proficiency tests from which students with disabilities have previously been exempted. The special educator must respond to all of these important and sometimes competing demands.

But what matters most in special education, the foundation without which everything would fall apart, is good instruction, day in and day out. And at the level where it matters most, special education is ultimately about the quality of instruction provided by teachers.

Reading a single textbook will not prepare you to be an effective teacher of exceptional children. Your introductory study of special education should, however, inform you about the critical elements of good instruction and provide numerous examples of their application. Each chapter includes one or more Teaching & Learning feature boxes that describe a wide range of effective teaching interventions—from classroom management and peer support strategies for inclusion to curriculum modifications and suggestions for effective error correction procedures. These boxes provide clear and practical guidelines for designing, implementing, and evaluating instruction of students with disabilities. All of the strategies described in the

Teaching & Learning features are classroom-tested and supported by research documenting their effectiveness.

#### PROFILES OF PEOPLE/PERSPECTIVES OF ISSUES

Each chapter contains one or more Profiles & Perspectives boxes that highlight the personal struggles, triumphs, and stories of persons with disabilities or share the views of parents, special educators, and other professionals about the achievements, challenges, and future directions of special education. For example, in Chapter 2, Michael Giangreco ("Moving Toward Inclusive Education") and Douglas and Lynn Fuchs ("Inclusion versus Full Inclusion") offer different perspectives o...

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