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Assistive Technology

Synthesis Paper

“Assistive technology provides creative solutions that enable individuals with disabilities to be more independent, productive, and included in society and community life” (Sagstetter, 1). Through this course a learned a lot about assistive technology. Before this course I did not realize the magnitude of assistive technology. Realizing how many different kinds of assistive technology even those that are no tech or low tech. I had no idea that there were so many ways we can help students and individuals be more successful and independent. It can allow individuals to have greater control over their own lives as well as participate in more activities in their home, school, or community. This will also allow them to interact more with non-disabled individuals. There were a few aspects of the course that stood out for me and I will take with me into my future career.

One of those aspects was the activity we did when we were put into groups each person in the group was given a different disability, hearing impaired, visual impairment, and physical impairment. Working together in those groups really opened my eyes to how difficult it is for students who deal with these impairments to fit in and follow along in their classrooms. My impairment was hearing impaired and I differently felt isolated from the group because I could not understand what they were telling me. I feel like this is a really important activity that any future teacher should do that will be working with children with special needs. Being able to even somewhat understand what these kids are dealing with everyday will give you a better perspective and be more understanding and empathetic when you are working with them.

Another aspect of this course that really stuck out for me was working on our websites. When I looked into an assistive technology that I wanted to research and make my webpage on I came across a livescribe’s smartpens. As someone who grew up with a learning disability I am really interested in learning about what knew technology is out there to help kids that struggled in school like I did. These smartpens could help a lot of students who struggle with taking notes. Seeing all of these new technologies is inspiring and shows me that with some help and some drive these kids can do anything they put their minds to. I believe it is my job as a teacher to help teach kids to have that drive and inspire them to reach for their full potential and not settle when things do not come easily. This course opened my eyes to many things but most of all it introduced me to the number of way we can help our students be successful.

Source

* Sagstetter, M. (n.d.). 2002 Conference Proceedings. Retrieved July 20, 2016, from http://www.csun.edu/~hfdss006/conf/2002/proceedings/16.htm