

Lesson Plan Pre-Unit: Classroom Lesson 1

Subject/Course	Secondary Transition – Self-Determination and Advocacy		
Topic:	History of Special Education		
Lesson Title:	History of Special Education and What it Means for Me		
Level:	9-12	Lesson Duration:	

Lesson Objectives:

- The students will gain an understanding of the history of special education.
- The students will understand that a disability does not mean failure.

Summary of Tasks/Actions:

1. Discuss the history of special education:

- *Did you know that nearly 50 million people over age 5 have a disability? That means about 1 in 5 people have some type of disability.*
- *At times people with disabilities have been treated poorly and sometimes feared. This has often been due to a lack of understanding and knowledge about disabilities. As a result, there has often been prejudice against people with disabilities as well as low expectations.*
- *One example of mistreatment is the story of Balbrus Balaesus the Stutterer. This man was placed in a cage by a road during ancient Roman times. The road was busy with travelers who would stop to watch Balbrus. Many people thought it was funny to listen to him talk.*
- *In the late 1700's, a boy named Victor was found wandering around in the woods in France. He was about 12 years old when he was found. It is believed that Victor had been alone in the woods for at least 7 years. A man named Itard took the boy home and taught him how to read, write and live around people. Some people say this was the first time in history that an "IEP" was used. Itard wrote out goals and objectives based on Victor's needs. Many people have studied the information Itard wrote about Victor and believe that if Victor were alive today he would be diagnosed with Autism.*
- *War has also been a reoccurring event in history which has forced society to reevaluate how disabilities are viewed. Several examples of this include: From the Revolutionary War to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, one thing all of these wars have in common is that many veterans returned home with disabilities from their injuries. Many people began to change their attitude toward people with disabilities because they now had friends and/or family who returned home from war with a disability.*
- *In more recent years people with disabilities were put in special schools, hospitals and institutions where they had little or no contact with the public.*

- While there have been many improvements in the way society treats people with disabilities, there are still barriers many people with disabilities face each day. Those barriers include low expectations and prejudice. Often people without disabilities are completely unaware of the barriers people with disabilities face each day. Sometimes people choose not to acknowledge the barriers that exist for people with disabilities.
 - In the 1970's the first law in history to protect the civil rights of people with disabilities was passed. In 1975, The Education for All handicapped Children Act was passed. The purpose of this law was to make education available to students with disabilities. This law is now known as IDEA. (page 47, *Me! Lessons for Teaching Self-Awareness and self-advocacy*).
2. Briefly discuss the process for how these students were determined that they have a disability and receive services in special education.
 3. The students will complete the *Famous People Matching (The 411 on Disability Disclosure – A Workbook for Youth with Disabilities)*.
 4. Review the answers with a focus that a disability does not mean failure.
- Answer Key: 1. g, 2. d, 3. i, 4. f, 5. k, 6. e, 7. b, 8. l, 9. j, 10. h, 11. c, 12. a, 13. n, 14. m, 15. o

Materials/Equipment:

- Worksheet: *Famous People Matching*
- Pencils/pens

References:

- *Me! Lessons for Teaching Self-Awareness and Self-Advocacy*. The University of Oklahoma. Zarrow Center for Enrichment.
<https://www.ou.edu/content/education/centers-and-partnerships/zarrow/transition-education-materials/me-lessons-for-teaching-self-awareness-and-self-advocacy/why-me.html>
- *The 411 on Disability Disclosure – A Workbook for Youth with Disabilities*. National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability (NCWD) for Youth. <http://www.ncwd-youth.info/411-on-disability-disclosure>