

HANDOUT

Special Needs Children in ECE

Anatomy of a Special Needs Child – ADA Compliance

18.5% of American Children under 18 are special needs students. That doesn't mean they aren't smart, talented, or capable. Just that they have specific challenges that a "normal" student wouldn't face.

The IDEA Act (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act):

- Students with disabilities must be prepared for further education, employment, and independent living.
- If a child's strength, endurance, or stamina cannot keep up with school activities, they can qualify for "other health impaired" special education status.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act:

- Prohibits schools from discriminating against children with disabilities.
- Requires schools to provide accommodations for disabled students.
- Students with impairments that substantially limit a major life activity can qualify as disabled (learning and social development deficits too).

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):

- Schools must meet the needs of children with special needs and disabilities to accommodate for and provide opportunities.

No Child Left Behind

- Schools must uphold achievement standards for children with disabilities.

There are four major types of special needs children.

1. Physical--
2. Developmental--
3. Behavioral/Emotional--
4. Sensory impaired--

Take a look in depth at the variety of kinds and support tools to use:

<https://www.masters-in-special-education.com/special-needs/>

Areas of Attention Span in Children:

5 AREAS OF ATTENTION



FOCUSED ATTENTION

When your child's attention is focused on visual (pictures) or auditory (hearing) information.

SHIFTING ATTENTION

When your child begins one task and stops to shift their focus on another task.



SELECTIVE ATTENTION

When your child attends to one specific task while filtering out other distractions around them.



SUSTAINED ATTENTION

When your child can attend and focus on a task for a continuous stretch of time.

DIVIDED ATTENTION

When your child can multitask, focusing only a part of their attention on multiple items at the same time.



Areas when children may need specific accommodations, could be during:

3 Styles of Learners:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Individual Activity

Create a list of ways you can help apply accommodations for each of the following areas for children who are visual, auditory, and hands-on learners.

Style of Learner	Activity idea to accommodate	CREATE YOUR OWN
Visual	Have print in both English and Spanish to label areas of the room	
Auditory	Have quiet music playing while children are free-playing in centers	
Kinesthetic	Give small pillows for the children to sit during circle time, to help with wiggles.	

Resources:

Caring for Special Needs Children - CFOC National High Quality Standards Guidelines & Documentation Forms for your Program

https://nrckids.org/CFOC/Special_Needs

Developmental Screener Tool - ASQ3 and ASQ-SE

<https://agesandstages.com/>

Special Needs Children: Definitions, Strategies to support diverse children in ECE classrooms, and Tips from NAEYC

<https://www.naeyc.org/resources/pubs/tyc/sep2017/every-child-belongs>