



# CHAPTER 12: LEARNERS WITH EXCEPTIONALITIES

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13%

of students ages 3 to 21  
receive special education services  
due to various disabilities.

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In a class of 25,  
3 students may have  
a learning exceptionality.

# LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to...

- Identify the most common exceptionalities that entitle students to special educational services
- Describe who learners with exceptionalities are
- Apply “People-First” Language

## DEFINING LEARNERS WITH EXCEPTIONALITIES

Individuals whose physical, mental, or behavioral performance is so different from the norm that additional services are required to meet their needs.

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**Disability**

- a functional limitation a person has that interferes with the person's physical or cognitive abilities

**Handicap**

- a condition imposed on a person with disabilities by society, physical environment, or the person's attitude

Attention  
Deficit  
Hyperactivity  
Disorder

Autism  
Spectrum  
Disorder

Hearing  
Disabilities &  
Deafness

Visual  
Impairments  
& Blindness

Speech and  
Language  
Impairments

Emotional &  
Behavioral  
Disorders

Gifted &  
Talented

# Students with Exceptionalities

# ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER

## ADHD

- A disorder making it difficult to maintain attention because of a limited ability to concentrate

## Signs

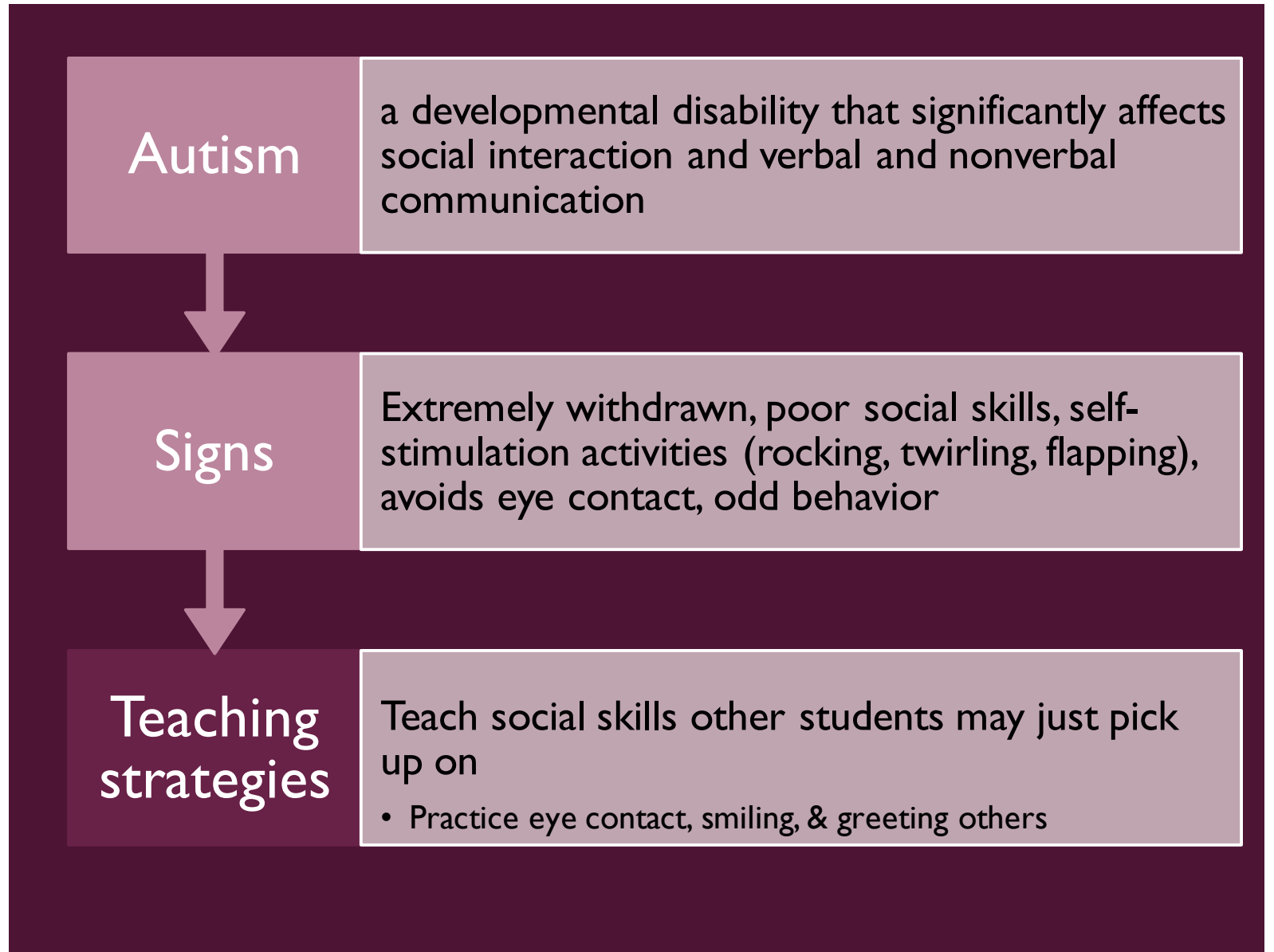
- Impulsive actions, attention deficits, hyperactive behavior
- Insomnia, weight loss, change in blood pressure

## Teaching Strategies

- Offer choices, provide visual reminders, encourage hands-on learning
- Establish rules and routines, focus on positive relationships

*Students with ADHD don't qualify for special education unless they also have other disabilities designed by law*

# AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER & ASPERGER SYNDROME





# SPEECH AND LANGUAGE IMPAIRMENTS



## Speech

- The formation and sequencing of sounds
- Articulation disorders

## Language

- The communication of ideas using symbols and includes written language, sign language, gesture, and other modes of communication in addition to oral speech
- Language disorders: receptive (understanding) or expressive (communicating)

# HEARING DISABILITIES & DEAFNESS

## Hearing disability

- Ranges from complete deafness to problems requiring a hearing aid

## Teaching strategies

- Seat the child in the front of the class with their better ear toward you
- Speak at the student's eye level when possible
- Avoid talking while facing away from the class
- Amplify your voice or use assistive technology

# VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS & BLINDNESS



## Vision Loss

Considered a disability only if it isn't correctable  
More than 80% of the legally blind can read large text

## Signs

Child often tilts head  
Child rubs eyes often  
Child's eyes are red, inflamed, or watery  
Dizziness/ headaches

## Teaching strategies

Modify text size on teaching materials  
Move child's seat  
Work with parents to determine alternatives

# EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIORAL DISORDERS

- Characteristics: Aggression, Hyperactivity, Withdrawal, Inability to make friends, Frustration
- Effects: Poor academic achievement, Poor interpersonal relationships, Low self esteem, Conduct disorders, Anxiety
- Those whose educational performance is adversely affected over a long period of time and to a marked degree by any of the following conditions:
  1. An inability to learn that can't be explained by intellectual, sensory, or health factors
  2. An inability to build or maintain satisfactory interpersonal relationships with peers or teachers
  3. Inappropriate types of behavior or feelings under normal circumstances
  4. A general, pervasive mood of unhappiness or depression
  5. A tendency to develop physical symptoms, pains, or fears associated with personal or school problems

# GIFTED AND TALENTED

- Giftedness- youth who perform or who have demonstrated the potential to perform at high levels in academic or creative fields when compared with others of their age, experience, or environment
- Signs
  - High IQ
  - Strong motivation
  - Can read very early
  - Perform extremely well in most subjects

## Enrichment

- Emphasize general exploratory activities, group training activities, and individual investigations of real problems

## Acceleration

- Curriculum compacting, skipping grades, advanced concepts

# TEACHING STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

Emphasize prevention

Teach learning to learn skills

Give frequent feedback

Use teaching strategies that engage students actively in lessons

Use effective classroom management methods

Coordinate supplementary services with classroom instruction

# IMPLEMENTING NEW SKILLS

- Find a partner who will be your substitute teacher as you are going to a professional development conference for a day.
- You decide to meet with them before leaving as you have a student with exceptionalities in your class.
- Explain to them how they need to tailor your lesson plan for each student.



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YOU KNOW  
  
(AND WHAT  
YOU DON'T)

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