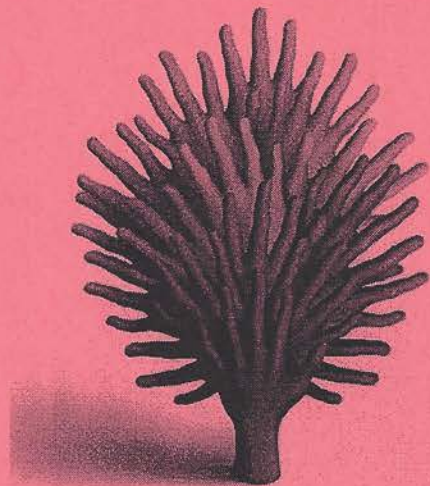


# Ability Awareness: Challenges Confronting Children with Disabilities



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## Alphabet Soup Quiz

### What does LRE stand for?

- Language and Reading Education
- Least Restrictive Environment
- Learning Rehabilitation Enhancement
- Land of Reduced Expectations

### What is an FBA?

- Functional Behavioral Assessment
- Full Behavioral Accommodations
- Full Building Accessibility
- Foolish Bureaucratic Annoyance

### What does OT stand for?

- Optional Therapies
- Occupational Therapy
- On-Call Teacher
- Obstructionist Technicalities

### What does PT stand for?

- Physical Therapy
- Performance Technology
- Provided Tutor
- Pointless Tests

### What does SLP stand for?

- Speech-Language Pathologist
- Special Learning Practitioner
- School Legal Protection
- Scapegoating Luckless Parents

**What is ESY?**

- Expected Scholastic Yield
- Enrichment for Special Youth
- Extended School Year
- Endless School Year

**What does IDEA stand for?**

- Individualized Diagnostic Educational Aids
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
- Information Delivery Enhancement Advisory
- Ideas Don't Exist Anymore

**What does FAPE stand for?**

- Fully Appropriate Physical Education
- Freely Accessible Physical Environment
- Free and Appropriate Public Education
- Fed-Up and Angry Parents for Equality

**What does 504 refer to?**

- The number of special-education students a district needs before it gets extra funding
- The number of students a district may place in out-of-district schools
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act
- The number of times you have to call the special-education office before you get a straight answer

**What does IEP stand for?**

- Inadequate Educational Progress
- Individualized Education Plan
- Innovative Educational Practices
- Improve Education Pronto!

# Teacher lets Morningside students vote out classmate, 5

By Colleen Wixon

Saturday, May 24, 2008

PORT ST. LUCIE — Melissa Barton said she is considering legal action after her son's kindergarten teacher led his classmates to vote him out of class.

After each classmate was allowed to say what they didn't like about Barton's 5-year-old son, Alex, his Morningside Elementary teacher Wendy Portillo said they were going to take a vote, Barton said.

By a 14 to 2 margin, the students voted Alex — who is in the process of being diagnosed with autism — out of the class.



Melissa Barton filed a complaint with Morningside's school resource officer, who investigated the matter, Port St. Lucie Department spokeswoman Michelle Steele said. But the state attorney's office concluded the matter did not meet the criteria for emotional child abuse, so no criminal charges will be filed, Steele said.

Port St. Lucie Police no longer are investigating, but police officials are documenting the complaint, she said.

Steele said the teacher confirmed the incident took place.

Portillo could not be reached for comment Friday.

She said the boy had been sent to the principal's office because of disciplinary issues. When he returned, Portillo made him go to the front of the room as a form of punishment, she said.

Barton said her son is in the process of being diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome, a type of high-functioning autism. Alex began the testing process in February at the suggestion of Morningside Principal Marcia Cully.

Children diagnosed with Asperger's often exhibit social isolation and eccentric behavior.

Alex has had disciplinary issues because of his disability, Barton said. After the family moved into the area and Alex and his sibling arrived at the school in January, Alex spent much of the time in the principal's office, she said.

He also had problems at his last school, but he did not have issues during his two years of preschool, Barton said.

School and district officials have met with Barton and her son to create an individual education plan to address his difficulties, she said. Portillo attended these meetings, Barton said.

Barton said after the vote, Portillo asked Alex how he felt.

"He said, 'I feel sad,'" Barton said.

Alex left the classroom and spent the rest of the day in the nurse's office, she said.

Barton said when she came to pick up her son at the school Wednesday, he was leaving the nurse's office.

"He was shaken up," she said.

Barton said the nurse told her to talk with Portillo, who told her what happened.

Alex hasn't been back to school since then, and Barton said he won't be returning. He starts screaming when she brings him with her to drop off his sibling at school.

Thursday night, his mother heard him saying "I'm not special" over and over.

Barton said Alex is reliving the incident.

The other students said he was "disgusting" and "annoying," Barton said.

"He was incredibly upset," Barton said. "The only friend he has ever made in his life was forced to do this."

St. Lucie School's spokeswoman Janice Karst said the district is investigating the incident, but could not make any further comment.

Vern Melvin, Department of Children and Families circuit administrator, confirmed the agency is investigating an allegation of abuse at Morningside but said he could not elaborate.



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### ***Discussion:***

*Select one of the following questions and respond. State reasons for your feelings, opinions, etc.*

- Creative discipline for a problem child, or emotional abuse?
- Should charges be filed against the kindergarten teacher?
- Should kindergarten teacher Wendy Portillo continue to teach kindergarten?
- How do you think the 2 students who didn't want him kicked out feel?
- Does "Survivor: Kindergarten" have a place in modern educational system?
- Is this type of discipline appropriate for a young boy with a disability affecting his social development?

# Survivor Kindergarten


Pick one question regarding the article and respond.

Wendy should lose her teaching certification / job. To even consider "voting" him out of the classroom is unprofessional and disturbing.

Norms

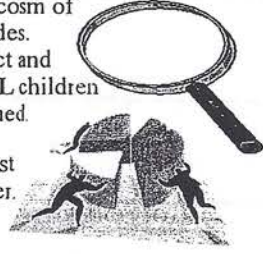
- What can you do to make this a good learning experience for yourself?
- What can you do to make this a good learning experience for others?

**Is this Fair?**  
*Teacher Lets Morningside Students Vote Out Classmate*



**Know WHY inclusion is important!**


1. Schools are a microcosm of society. Alter attitudes. **ALL** children respect and value diversity. **ALL** children learn if they are valued.
2. **ALL** children learn best when educated together. -- Mutual benefits.



What are Inclusive Practices?  
LRE, IDEA, & RtI

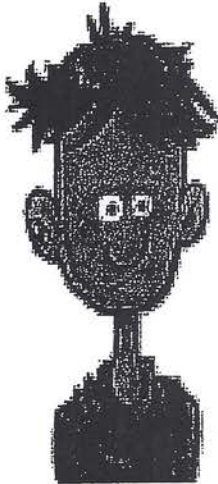
- Individualized Education Program (IEP)
  - > Goals → Objectives
  - > SDI
- Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA 2004)
- Response to Intervention (RtI)
- All of which is directly related to the general education curriculum

Gaskin vs. Pennsylvania Department of Education



Lydia Gaskin    Picture taken from PaTTAN *Educating all Students in the LRE* presentation

# Time for a Brain Dump



ARTIE.COM

1. Summarize ideas up to now.
2. Make a connection to your current professional development plan.
3. Plan how to use the ideas presented in your current setting.
4. Name one important piece of information that you heard up to this point that made you think differently about differentiated instruction.
5. Name one important piece of information you heard so far that you can apply to your position immediately.
6. Name one thing we discussed up to now that you want to hear more about.

The length of time for direct instruction is a lot lower than what teachers do. A lot of info. is getting lost due to this. It is important to give processing time...



## Overview of Disabilities

Disability	Typical Concerns	Academic Interventions
Autism/PDD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• communication</li> <li>• trouble relating to people, objects, &amp; events; changes in routine/surroundings</li> <li>• unusual play w/ toys &amp; objects</li> <li>• repetitive body mvmts./behavior</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• schedule !! routines !!</li> <li>• emphasize strengths</li> <li>• positive feedback</li> <li>• social interactions/support patterns</li> <li>• work w/ parents, etc.</li> </ul>
Deaf=Blindness		
Hearing Impairment		
Emotional Disturbance		
Intellectual Impaired		
Multiple Disabilities		
Orthopedic Impairment		

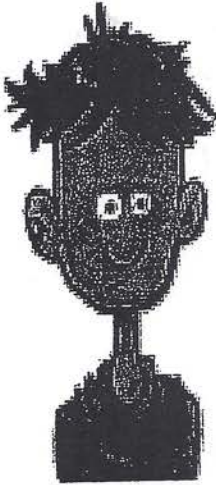
prepare them if routines are changing

concerns

interventions

Other Health Impairment		
Specific Learning Disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>trouble w/ ABC's, rhyming, letters-sounds, read aloud, comprehension, spelling, handwriting, fine motor skills, vocabulary, jokes, directions, speech, math symbols/#s, retell, etc...</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>parent info/edu.</li> <li>break concepts into smaller steps</li> <li>manipulatives</li> <li>visual/graphic org. w/ color</li> <li>audio-record notes</li> <li>teach study skills</li> </ul>
Speech/Language Impairment		
Traumatic Brain injury		
Visual Impairment		

# Time for a Brain Dump



ARTIE.COM

- 1. Summarize ideas up to now:**
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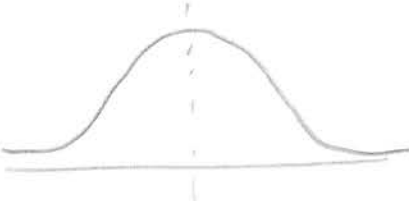
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How Difficult Can This Be?

The F.A.T. City Workshop

Rick Lavoie  
when the chips  
are down

Program Themes	Notes from Video
Experiencing Frustration, Anxiety and Tension	Anxiety affects performance
Inability to Process Language	
Risk-Taking	
The problems of learning disabled students stem from.....	

<p>Visual Perception</p>	<p>* cow ↓        (picture fuzzy + unclear)        Optical illusion images</p>
<p>Reading Comprehension</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- background</li> <li>- training</li> <li>- ex's w/ vocab words known vs. unknown; then used in</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;">90% words</p>
<p>The Effect of Visual Perception on Behavior</p>	<p>skull vs. woman looking in mirror</p>
<p>Learning disabilities affect the students' ability to...</p>	



1 2 3      4  
~~2~~ ~~3~~

<p>Visual-Motor Coordination</p>	<p>• tracing shape while looking in mirror</p>
<p>Oral Expression</p> <p>② associative  vs.  ① cognitive tasks</p>	<p>dysnomia  ≈  aphasia</p>
<p>Among the techniques that are beneficial in assisting LD children are...</p> <p>Jessica → legs crossed  Jessica → legs crossed &amp; making circles w/ feet</p>	<p>give them the gift of time</p>
<p>Reading and Decoding</p>	<p>The poya<sup>ndth</sup>ec<sup>at...</sup></p>

<p>Auditory and Visual Capabilities</p>	
<p>Fairness you get what you <u>need</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• does not mean everyone gets the same thing...</li> <li>• someone turns blue &amp; falls over... "wouldn't be fair if I gave everyone CPR..."</li> </ul>
<p>My feelings about the academic abilities of the learning disabled child are...</p>	<p>in order to be fair, we've got to treat them differently</p>

(ex: glasses/contacts...)  
not for everyone

# Welcome to Holland

By Emily Perl Kingsley. 1987.

I am often asked to describe the experience of raising a child with a disability - to try to help people who have not shared that unique experience to understand it, to imagine how it would feel. It's like this.....

When you're going to have a baby, it's like planning a fabulous vacation trip - to Italy. You buy a bunch of guide books and make your wonderful plans. The Coliseum. The Michelangelo David. The gondolas in Venice. You may learn some handy phrases in Italian. It's all very exciting.

After months of eager anticipation, the day finally arrives. You pack your bags and off you go. Several hours later, the plane lands. The stewardess comes in and says, "Welcome to Holland."

"Holland?!?" you say. "What do you mean Holland?? I signed up for Italy! I'm supposed to be in Italy. All my life I've dreamed of going to Italy."

But there's been a change in the flight plan. They've landed in Holland and there you must stay.

The important thing is that they haven't taken you to a horrible, disgusting, filthy place, full of pestilence, famine and disease. It's just a different place.

So you must go out and buy new guide books. And you must learn a whole new language. And you will meet a whole new group of people you would never have met.

It's just a different place. It's slower-paced than Italy, less flashy than Italy. But after you've been there for a while and you catch your breath, you look around.... and you begin to notice that Holland has windmills....and Holland has tulips. Holland even has Rembrandts.

But everyone you know is busy coming and going from Italy... and they're all bragging about what a wonderful time they had there. And for the rest of your life, you will say "Yes, that's where I was supposed to go. That's what I had planned."

And the pain of that will never, ever, ever, ever go away... because the loss of that dream is a very very significant loss.

But... if you spend your life mourning the fact that you didn't get to Italy, you may never be free to enjoy the very special, the very lovely things ... about Holland.



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