

Glossary

abandonment When an individual stops using an assistive technology device.

absence seizure A type of epileptic seizure lasting for a brief period of time whereby the individual loses consciousness and stops moving, formerly known as petit mal seizures.

acceleration An instructional strategy typically used with pupils who are gifted and talented; one approach is placing students in a grade level beyond their chronological age.

acoustic immittance A technical term for measurements of middle ear function.

acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) An infectious disease caused by HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) that destroys the immune system, leaving the person open to serious, life-threatening diseases.

active listening A type of listening in which a person is attentive to the feelings as well as the verbal message that is being communicated.

adaptability The ability of an individual or family to change in response to a crisis or stressful event.

adaptive behavior The ability of an individual to meet the standards of personal independence as well as social responsibility appropriate for his or her chronological age and cultural group.

additions An articulation disorder wherein the speaker inserts extra sounds in spoken words.

adventitious hearing loss Hearing loss that is acquired after birth, not inherited.

air-conduction audiometry A procedure for measuring hearing sensitivity at certain frequencies using pure tones presented to the listener through earphones or speakers.

albinism A hereditary condition with partial or total absence of pigment in the eye.

amniocentesis A diagnostic medical procedure performed to detect chromosomal and genetic

abnormalities in a fetus.

anencephaly Cranial malformation; large part of the brain fails to develop.

anoxia Loss of or inadequate supply of oxygen associated with birth process and frequently resulting in brain damage.

aphakic Absence of the lens, causing light sensitivity and loss of visual acuity.

aphasia Loss or impairment of language functions.

applied behavior analysis Application of learning principles derived from operant conditioning; used to increase or decrease specific behaviors.

apraxia of speech Speech and language disorder comprised of both a speech disorder, caused by oral-motor difficulty, and a language disorder, characterized by the resultant limitations of expression.

articulation disorders Errors in the formation of individual sounds of speech.

Asperger syndrome A pervasive developmental disorder with severe and sustained impairments in social interaction and the development of restricted, repetitive patterns of behavior, interests, and activities. Disorder causes clinically significant impairments in other important areas of functioning.

assessment The process of gathering information and identifying a student's strengths and needs through a variety of instruments and products; data used in making decisions.

assistive listening devices Devices such as FM or sound field systems that improve the clarity of what is heard by an individual with hearing impairments by reducing background noise levels.

assistive technology Any item, piece of equipment, or product system that increases, maintains, or improves functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.

assistive technology service Any service that directly assists an individual in the selection, acquisition,

or use of an assistive technology device.

assistive technology specialist A person trained to provide assistive technology services to individuals with disabilities.

asthma A lung disease with acute attacks of shortness of breath and wheezing.

astigmatism One or more surfaces of the cornea or lens are cylindrical, not spherical, resulting in distorted vision.

ataxic cerebral palsy A type of cerebral palsy that is characterized by poor balance and equilibrium in addition to uncoordinated voluntary movement.

athetoid cerebral palsy A type of cerebral palsy in which movements are contorted, abnormal, and purposeless.

atresia The absence or closure of the ear canal; can be congenital or acquired from injury or disease.

at-risk An infant or child who has a high probability of exhibiting delays in development or developing a disability.

attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) A disorder characterized by symptoms of inattention, hyperactivity, and/or impulsivity. Frequently observed in individuals with learning disabilities.

audiogram A graphic representation of audiometric findings showing hearing thresholds as a function of frequency.

audiologist A professional who studies the science of hearing, including anatomy, function, and disorders, and provides education and treatment for those with hearing loss.

auditory evoked potentials Neural impulses produced from within the auditory system in response to stimulation of the auditory pathway and recorded as bioelectric events using a special computer.

auditory trainers Type of amplification system used by children with hearing impairments in place of

their hearing aids in educational settings.

augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) Symbols, aids, strategies, and techniques used as a supplement or alternative to oral language.

authentic assessment An evaluation of a student's ability by means of various work products, typically classroom assignments and other activities.

autism spectrum disorders A developmental disorder characterized by abnormal or impaired development in social interaction and communication and a markedly restricted repertoire of activity and interests.

autistic savant An individual with autism who possesses special skills in areas such as mathematical calculations, memory feats, artistic and musical abilities, or reading.

autosomal dominant A genetic form of inheritance involving the non-sex-linked chromosomes in which the individual has one normal and one abnormal gene in a gene pair.

autosomal recessive A genetic form of inheritance involving the non-sex-linked chromosomes in which both genes of a gene pair must be affected for the trait to be expressed.

behavioral curriculum model A curriculum approach based on learning principles derived from behavioral psychology.

behavioral inhibition A characteristic common in persons with ADHD; impacts executive functions. Typically affects the ability to (1) withhold a planned response; (2) interrupt an ongoing response; and (3) protect an ongoing response from distractions.

behavioral intervention plan A plan required by Public Law 105-17 for students with disabilities who exhibit problematic behavior; a proactive intervention approach that includes a functional behavioral assessment and the use of positive behavioral supports.

bilingual education An educational approach whereby students whose first language is not English are

instructed primarily through their native language while developing competency and proficiency in English.

bilingual special education Strategy whereby a pupil's home language and culture are used along with English in an individually designed program of special instruction.

biologically at-risk Young children with a history of pre-, peri-, or postnatal conditions and developmental events that heighten the potential for later atypical development.

birth trauma Difficulties associated with the delivery of the fetus.

blind An impairment in which an individual may have some light or form perception or be totally without sight.

bone-conduction audiometry A procedure for measuring hearing sensitivity at certain frequencies using pure tones presented through an oscillator placed on the forehead or mastoid bone of the listener. Sound is conducted to the inner ear through the bones of the skull.

Braille A communication system utilizing raised representation of written materials for tactual interpretation.

brain injury Actual or assumed trauma to the brain.

breech presentation Fetus exits the birth canal buttocks first rather than typical headfirst presentation.

cataracts Lenses that are opaque or cloudy due to trauma or age.

category Label assigned to individuals who share common characteristics and features.

central auditory nervous system Part of the hearing mechanism connecting the ear to the brain.

central auditory processing disorder (CAPD) A problem in the processing of sound not attributed to hearing loss or intellectual capacity, involving cognitive and linguistic functions that directly affect receptive communication skills.

central hearing disorder Difficulty in the reception and interpretation of auditory information in the absence of a hearing loss.

cerebral palsy Several nonprogressive disorders of voluntary movement or posture that are caused by damage to the developing brain.

CHARGE association A rare genetic disorder resulting in deaf-blindness, a syndrome representing a cluster of physical anomalies present at birth.

child-find A function of each state, mandated by federal law, to locate and refer individuals who might require special education.

child maltreatment The neglect and/or physical, emotional, or sexual abuse of a child.

chorionic villus sampling (CVS) A diagnostic medical procedure used to detect a variety of chromosomal abnormalities, usually conducted in the first trimester of pregnancy.

classroom ambience The feeling or sense a person experiences upon entering a classroom; the appeal of the room.

classroom arrangement The physical layout of the classroom and its décor; a proactive intervention technique designed to minimize disruptions while increasing pupil engagement.

cleft lip/cleft palate A congenital defect in which the upper lip is split or there is an opening in the roof of the mouth. Can often be surgically corrected. Hypernasality is common.

clinically derived classification system A system frequently used by mental health professionals to describe childhood, adolescent, and adult mental disorders.

cluster grouping The practice of placing five or more students who have similar needs and abilities with one teacher; promotes challenging cognitive development and positive social-emotional development.

cluttering Type of fluency disorder involving cognitive, linguistic, pragmatic, speech, and motor abilities.

cochlea Shell- or spiral-shaped structure in the inner ear that is responsible for hearing.

cochlear implant A surgically implanted device that allows individuals who are deaf to hear environmental sounds and understand speech.

cohesion Within a family, the degree of freedom and independence experienced by each member.

collaboration How individuals work together; a style of interaction among professionals.

coloboma A congenital condition that results in a teardrop shape of the pupil, iris, lens, retina, choroids, or optic nerve; may involve loss of field vision as well as problems with glare and depth perception.

communication The sharing or exchange of ideas, information, thoughts, and feelings. Does not necessarily require speech or language.

communication breakdown Misunderstanding as to what is being communicated, especially as it relates to individuals who are using some form of augmentative communication.

community-based instruction A strategy for teaching functional skills in the environment in which they would naturally occur rather than in simulated settings.

comorbidity The simultaneous existence of two or more conditions within the same person.

complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) Treatment strategies and interventions for individuals with autism spectrum disorders that lack empirical support.

complex partial seizure A type of epileptic seizure whereby the person exhibits purposeless motor activity for a brief period of time; consciousness is impaired

computer assisted instruction The application of computer technology to deliver instruction.

conduct disorders A common psychiatric disorder among children and youth characterized by disruptive and aggressive behavior as well as other actions that violate societal rules.

conductive hearing loss The loss of sound sensitivity produced by abnormalities of the outer ear and/or

middle ear.

cone cells Light-sensitive cells located mainly in the central area of the retina that define color.

conflict resolution Program designed to teach problem-solving skills along with strategies for negotiation and mediation.

consultation A focused problem-solving process in which one individual offers support and expertise to another person.

content enhancements Instructional aids designed to assist pupils in understanding major concepts, ideas, and vocabulary in a way that aids the acquisition, organization, and recall of material.

contractures Shortened muscles that result in the inability to fully extend a joint.

cooperative learning Instructional process whereby heterogeneous groups of students work together on an assignment.

cooperative teaching An instructional approach in which a special education teacher and a general educator teach together in a general education classroom to a heterogeneous group of students.

cornea The transparent outer portion of the eyeball that transmits light to the retina.

creativity A term with multiple meanings, generally referring to the production of novel or original ideas or products.

crisis prevention and management programs Techniques taught to teachers on how to effectively and proactively deal with students' violent, aggressive, and/or self-injurious behaviors; a proactive preventative approach.

criterion-referenced assessment An assessment procedure in which a student's performance is compared to a particular level of mastery.

cultural pluralism The practice of appreciating and respecting ethnic and cultural differences.

cultural sensitivity A perspective adopted by professionals when working with families in which there is an awareness of and respect for the values, customs, and traditions of individuals and families.

culture The attitudes, values, belief systems, norms, and traditions shared by a particular group of people that collectively form their heritage.

curriculum-based measurement A formative assessment procedure for monitoring student progress in core academic subjects that reflect the local school curriculum.

curriculum compacting An instructional technique whereby the time spent on academic subjects is reduced so as to allow for enrichment activities; typically used with students who are gifted or talented.

cytomegalovirus Known as CMV, a common virus that is part of the herpes group; if initial exposure occurs during pregnancy, severe damage to the fetus often results.

deaf Limited or absent hearing for ordinary purposes of daily living.

deaf-blindness Concomitant hearing and visual impairments.

Deaf culture. Refers to individuals who are deaf who share similar values, attitudes, and practices; view American Sign Language as their natural language.

decibel (dB) A unit of measure expressing the magnitude of a sound relative to the softest sound to which the normal human ear can respond.

deinstitutionalization A movement whereby persons with intellectual disabilities are relocated from large institutions into smaller, community-based, group living settings.

developmental delay A term defined by individual states referring to children ages 3 to 9 who perform significantly below developmental norms.

developmental language delay Slowness in the development of adequate vocabulary and grammar, or when a child's language age does not correspond to the child's chronological age.

developmental/cognitive model A curriculum approach based on the work of Piaget; cognitive

development seen as resulting from maturation coupled with active interaction and involvement with children's environment.

differentiation A modification of the curriculum that enables students who are gifted to learn at a level appropriate to their ability.

diplegia Paralysis (or spasticity) of the legs and partly the arms.

Direct Instruction A teacher-directed instructional technique used to produce gains in specific academic skills; emphasizes drill and practice along with immediate feedback and reward.

disability An inability or incapacity to perform a task or activity in a normative fashion.

discrepancy In regard to learning disabilities, the difference between the student's actual academic performance and his or her estimated ability.

distortions Articulation disorder in which a sound is said inaccurately, but resembles the intended sound (e.g., shlip for sip).

doctor's office effect The absence of symptoms of ADHD when the individual is evaluated in a structured environment such as a physician's office.

Down syndrome A chromosomal abnormality frequently resulting in intellectual disabilities with accompanying distinctive physical features.

Duchenne muscular dystrophy An inherited disease that is characterized by progressive muscle weakness from the degeneration of the muscle fiber.

dyslexia A severe reading disability; difficulty in understanding the relationship between sounds and letters.

early childhood special education Provision of customized services uniquely crafted to meet the individual needs of youngsters with disabilities ages 3 to 5.

early intervention The delivery of a coordinated and comprehensive package of specialized services to infants and toddlers with developmental delays or at-risk conditions and their families.

educational technology Technology used for educational purposes such as teaching and learning.

educable mentally retarded Classification of a person with mild intellectual disabilities who typically develops functional academic skills at a third- or fourth-grade level; IQ range generally between 50/55 and 70/75.

effective instructional cycle A teaching technique designed to enhance learning and student engagement.

emotional disturbance A term often used when referring to individuals with emotional or behavioral disorders.

emotional or behavioral disorders A chronic condition characterized by behaviors that significantly differ from age norms and community standards to such a degree that educational performance is adversely affected.

encephalitis An inflammation of the brain; may cause damage to the central nervous system.

English learners (ELs) Students whose primary language is not English but they have yet to achieve proficiency in English.

enrichment An instructional approach typically used with pupils who are gifted and talented; providing additional learning opportunities and experiences not normally available in the curriculum.

environmental control unit A device that allows the user to control electric appliances, telephones, and other items that use electric outlets from a distance.

environmentally at-risk Youngsters who are biologically typical yet encounter life experiences or environmental circumstances that are so limiting that there is the possibility of future delayed development.

epilepsy A chronic condition in which the person has reoccurring seizures.

established risk Youngsters with a diagnosed medical disorder of known etiology and predictable prognosis or outcome.

eText An electronic presentation of a text, also known as a digital text that can be read on a computer.

ethnocentrism A perspective whereby a person views his or her cultural practices as correct and those of other groups as inferior, peculiar, or deviant.

etiology A term frequently used when describing the cause of a disability.

eugenics movement A campaign that sought to improve the quality of humankind through carefully controlled selective breeding.

evoked otoacoustic emissions Sounds produced by the inner ear in response to auditory stimulation and measured in the ear canal.

exceptional children Children who deviate from the norm to such an extent that special educational services are required.

exclusionary clause In regard to learning disabilities, the elimination of possible etiological factors to explain a pupil's difficulty in learning.

executive functions Internal regulation of one's behavior through control of emotions, inner speech, working memory, arousal levels, and motivation. Considered impaired in individuals with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.

expressive language The formation and production of language, verbal and nonverbal, that is understood by and meaningful to others.

external locus of control The belief that the consequences or outcomes of a person's actions are the result of circumstances and situations beyond one's control rather than a result of one's own efforts.

externalizing disorders A behavior disorder characterized by aggressive, disruptive, acting-out behavior.

familiality studies A method for assessing the degree to which a particular characteristic is inherited; the tendency for certain conditions to occur in a single family.

family characteristics One dimension of a family systems model; aspects include family size and form, cultural background, and socioeconomic status, as well as the type and severity of the disability.

family functions Interrelated activities found within a family systems model; functions range from affection to economics to socialization, among other variables.

family interactions One aspect of a family systems model; refers to the relationships and interactions occurring among and between various family subsystems.

family life cycle Developmental changes occurring within a family over time.

family systems model A model that considers a family as an interrelated social system with unique characteristics and needs.

family-centered early intervention (approach) A philosophy of working with families that stresses family strengths and capabilities, the enhancement of skills, and the development of mutual partnerships between service providers and families.

family-directed assessment A form of assessment, useful for infants, toddlers, and preschool-age youngsters, that focuses on information that families choose to provide regarding needs, concerns, resources, and priorities.

fetal alcohol effect A less severe and more subtle form of fetal alcohol syndrome; caused by drinking alcohol while pregnant.

fetal alcohol syndrome Results from mother's consumption of alcohol while pregnant; mild to moderate intellectual disabilities are common, along with physical deformities. A leading cause of intellectual disabilities, although completely preventable.

field dependent/sensitive Students who approach learning intuitively rather than analytically and logically. These students tend to find success in cooperative learning situations and group work.

field independent Learners who are detail oriented and analytically inclined. These students tend to thrive in competitive settings.

field loss A restriction to the visual field within the quadrant regions to the right, left, up, and down while gazing straight ahead.

fingerspelling A form of manual communication; different positions or movements of the fingers indicate letters of the alphabet.

flexible grouping The combining or grouping of students according to needs and abilities matched to their level of achievement.

fluency disorders Disorders that involve the flow of speech, influencing the rate and smoothness of an individual's speech.

FM system A wireless system that allows the transmission of a signal from the teacher wearing a microphone to the student wearing a receiver, increasing the volume of the teacher's voice over the volume level of classroom noise.

formal supports Assistance provided by government social programs, habilitation services, or advocacy groups.

Fragile X syndrome A chromosomal abnormality leading to intellectual disabilities along with physical anomalies; believed to be the most common form of inherited intellectual disabilities.

frequency The number of vibrations per second of a given sound wave; typically measured as cycles per second (cps) or hertz (Hz).

full inclusion An interpretation of the principle of least restrictive environment advocating that all pupils

with disabilities are to be educated in the general education classroom.

functional Etiologies of speech and language disorders that have no obvious physical basis (such as environmental stress).

functional academics The application of life skills as a means of teaching academic tasks; core of many instructional programs for students with mild or moderate intellectual disabilities.

functional behavioral assessment A behavioral strategy that seeks to determine the purpose or function that a particular behavior serves—what is occasioning and maintaining the behavior.

functional curriculum A curriculum that emphasizes practical life skills rather than academic skills.

functional vision How well students use the vision they have to complete a specific task.

functionally blind An educational description when the primary channel of learning is through tactile and auditory means.

galactosemia An inborn error of metabolism that makes infants unable to process galactose, resulting in a variety of physical problems in addition to intellectual disabilities; dietary intervention reduces potential for problems.

generalizing The ability to transfer previously learned knowledge or skills acquired in one setting to another set of circumstances or situation.

gifted and talented Persons who possess abilities and talents that can be demonstrated, or have the potential for being developed, at exceptionally high levels.

glaucoma A disease caused by increased pressure inside the aqueous portion of the eye with loss in the visual field.

grade one Braille A beginning level of Braille in which a word is spelled out with a Braille letter corresponding to each printed letter.

grade two Braille A more complex level of Braille in which contractions are used to represent parts of words or whole words.

handicapism The unequal and differential treatment accorded individuals with a disability.

handicap Difficulties imposed by the environment on a person with a disability.

hard of hearing Refers to a person who has a hearing loss but uses the auditory channel as the primary avenue for oral communication, with or without a hearing aid.

hearing impairment Less than normal hearing (either sensitivity or speech understanding) resulting from auditory disorder(s).

hearing sensitivity loss Poorer than normal auditory sensitivity for sounds; usually measured in decibels using pure tones.

hemiplegia Paralysis (or spasticity) on the left or right side of the body.

heritability studies A method for assessing the degree to which a specific condition is inherited; a comparison of the prevalence of a characteristic in fraternal versus identical twins.

hertz (Hz) A unit of measurement for sound frequency, expressed as cycles per second (cps).

high-risk register A list of factors placing infants at increased risk for hearing impairment, including, but not limited to, low birth weight, congenital perinatal infections, a family history of childhood hearing impairment, severe asphyxia, and bacterial meningitis.

hydrocephalus A condition in which the head is unusually large due to accumulation of excessive cerebrospinal fluid; brain damage often minimized by surgically implanting a shunt to remove excess fluid.

hyperactive child syndrome A historical term commonly used to describe youngsters who exhibit impulsivity, inattention, and/or hyperactivity.

hypernasality Disorder of voice resonance, frequently observed as a result of cleft palate, in which too much air passes through the nasal cavities during the production of sounds, giving the speaker a distinctive nasal quality or “twang.”

hyperopia Change in the shape of the eye, which shortens the light ray path and causes farsightedness.

hyponasality Disorder of voice resonance in which there is a restricted flow of air through the nostrils, often resulting in the speaker’s sounding as if his or her nose is being held.

hypoxia Insufficient amount of oxygen to the brain; can result in brain damage.

incidence A rate of inception; number of new cases appearing in the population within a specific time period.

incus The second of the three middle ear bones for conducting sound to the inner ear, located between the malleus and the stapes; also called the anvil.

individualized transition plan (ITP) An individualized plan with identified goals and objectives used to prepare the student in making the transition from high school to work (or college).

individualized education program (IEP) A written detailed plan developed by a team for each pupil ages 3–21 who receives a special education; a management tool.

individualized family service plan (IFSP) A written plan developed by a team that coordinates services for infants and toddlers and their families.

infant stimulation Programs for infants with disabilities or those experiencing delays; emphasis usually on achieving developmental or cognitive milestones.

information technology Databases and computer-based information sources.

inner ear The snail-shaped part of the ear (cochlea) containing the organs of hearing and balance.

instructional technology Any apparatus or device that supports the teaching–learning process, such as

computers or televisions; a tool for the delivery of instruction.

interdisciplinary A group of professionals from different disciplines who function as a team but work independently; recommendations, however, are the result of sharing information and joint planning.

interindividual differences Differences between two or more persons in a particular area.

internalizing disorders Behavior disorders characterized by anxiety, withdrawal, fearfulness, and other conditions reflecting an individual's internal state.

interpersonal problem solving Teaching pupils the cognitive skills needed to avoid and resolve interpersonal conflicts, peer pressure, and ways of coping with stress and their own feelings.

interpreter A professional who signs, gestures, and/or fingerspells a speaker's message as it is spoken to enable individuals with hearing impairments to understand spoken language.

intervener A person with specialized training and skills in deaf-blindness who provides individualized assistance to students.

intraindividual differences Differences within the individual; unique patterns of strengths and weaknesses.

iris The colored, circular part of the eye in front of the lens that controls the size of the pupil.

job coach An individual who supervises a person with a disability for all or part of the day to provide training, assistance, or support to maintain a job.

joint attention A social communication deficit common in individuals with autism spectrum disorders, the failure to respond to a gaze or pointing by another person.

juvenile rheumatoid arthritis A chronic arthritic condition affecting the joints that occurs before 16 years of age.

language A code used to communicate ideas via a conventional system of arbitrary signals.

language sample An observational evaluation that includes observing the speech and language characteristics of a child actively communicating.

lead poisoning An environmental toxin used at one time in the manufacture of gasoline and paint; ingestion of lead can cause seizures, brain damage, and impaired central nervous system functioning.

learned helplessness A lack of persistence at tasks that can be mastered; a tendency to expect failure.

learning disabilities A disability in which there is a discrepancy between a person's ability and academic achievement; individual possesses average intelligence.

learning medium The materials and methods a student uses in conjunction with the sensory channels in the process of learning.

learning strategies Instructional methodologies focusing on teaching students how to learn; designed to assist pupils in becoming more actively engaged and involved in their own learning.

least restrictive environment A relative concept individually determined for each student; principle that each pupil should be educated, to the maximum extent appropriate, with classmates who are typical.

legally blind A visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with correction or a visual field that is no greater than 20 degrees.

lens The transparent disc in the middle of the eye behind the pupil that brings rays of light into focus on the retina.

level of support A classification scheme for individuals with intellectual disabilities that is based on the type and extent of assistance required to function in various areas.

limb deficiency Any number of skeletal abnormalities in which an arm(s) and/or leg(s) is partially or totally missing.

literacy medium The student's preferred method of reading and writing.

low birth weight A term frequently used to describe babies who are born weighing less than 2,500 grams (5 lbs., 8 oz.)

low incidence A special education category representative of students with disabilities that occur relatively infrequently.

low vision A visual impairment that interferes with the ability to perform daily activities and in which the primary channel of learning is through the use of prescription and nonprescription devices.

macroculture The shared or national culture of a society.

macula The area of best central vision.

macular degeneration A common eye disease in adults, which may also occur in young people, involving damage to the central part of the retina cones, affecting central vision, light sensitivity, and color.

magnet high school A school with a strong instructional emphasis on a particular theme, such as performing arts or math and science; an option for secondary pupils who are gifted and talented.

mainstreaming An early term for the practice of integrating students with special needs into a general education classroom for all or part of the school day.

malleus The first and largest of the three middle ear bones for conducting sound to the inner ear. Also called the hammer, it is attached to the tympanic membrane.

manual communication Communication methods that utilize fingerspelling, signs, and gestures.

melting pot A metaphor describing the United States in the early decades of the twentieth century.

meningitis A viral or bacterial infection of the membranes covering the brain and spinal cord; associated with hearing loss and intellectual disabilities.

mentally ill A generic term often used by professionals outside of the field of special education to refer to individuals with emotional or behavioral disorders.

mentor The role fulfilled by an older individual who is an expert in a particular field and who works with and guides a student in an area of mutual interest.

metacognition The ability to evaluate and monitor one's own performance.

microcephaly A condition in which the head is unusually small, leading to inadequate development of the brain and resulting in intellectual disabilities.

microcultures Distinct subcultures within a larger culture; these groups maintain their own distinct values, norms, folkways, and identification.

middle ear The air-filled space behind the eardrum that contains three tiny bones (ossicles) that carry sound to the inner ear.

minimal brain injury A once popular term referring to individuals who exhibit behavioral signs of brain injury (such as distractibility or impulsivity) but with no neurological evidence.

mixed cerebral palsy Cerebral palsy that consists of combinations of different types. A person who has both spastic and athetoid cerebral palsy would be considered to have mixed cerebral palsy.

mixed hearing loss Hearing losses resulting from both conductive and sensorineural hearing impairments.

mnemonic strategies A cognitive approach used to assist pupils in remembering material; the use of rhymes, pictures, acronyms, and similar aids to help in recall.

morphological disorder Difficulty learning and using morphological rules of language.

morphology Dictates how the smallest meaningful units of our language (morphemes) are combined to form words.

multicultural education An ambiguous concept that deals with issues of race, language, social class, and culture as well as disability and gender. Also viewed as an educational strategy wherein the cultural heritage of each pupil is valued.

multiculturalism Referring to more than one culture; acknowledges basic commonalities among groups of people while appreciating their differences.

multidisciplinary team A group of professionals from different disciplines who function as a team but perform their roles independent of one another.

multimodal interventions The use of concurrent treatment approaches with students who exhibit attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.

multiple disabilities Concomitant impairments that result in such severe educational needs that a student cannot be accommodated in a special education program solely on the basis of one of the impairments.

multiple intelligences An alternative perspective on intelligence suggesting that there are many different kinds of intelligence.

myopia Elongation of the eye that causes extreme nearsightedness and decreased visual acuity.

natural supports Assistance rendered by family members, friends, teachers, and coworkers.

neuromotor impairments Several types of impairments involving abnormality of, or damage to, the brain, spinal cord, or nerves that send impulses to the muscles of the body.

noncategorical Programs developed based on student needs and common instructional requirements rather than on disability.

nondiscriminatory testing Federal mandate that assessments be conducted in a culturally responsive fashion.

normalization A principle advocating that individuals with disabilities should be integrated, to the maximum extent possible, into all aspects of everyday living.

norm-referenced assessments Refers to standardized tests on which a pupil's performance is compared to that of his or her peers.

off-level testing The use of assessment instruments designed for older students when evaluating the academic ability of a child thought to be gifted.

omissions Articulation disorder that occurs when a sound is not pronounced in a word (e.g., han for hand).

optic nerve The nerve at the posterior of the eye that carries messages from the retina to the brain.

optic nerve atrophy Degeneration of the optic nerve, which may be congenital or hereditary, causing loss of central vision, color vision, and reduced visual acuity.

oral approaches Methods of instruction for children with hearing impairments that emphasize spoken language skills. Methodology attempts to use the child's residual hearing and employs auditory training and speechreading.

oral interpreter A professional who silently repeats a speaker's message as it is spoken so that a hearing-impaired person can lipread the message.

orbit A protective cone-shaped cavity in the skull, sometimes called the socket.

organ of Corti Organ of hearing found within the cochlea.

organic Etiologies of speech and language disorders that can be linked to a physiological deficit (such as cleft palate).

orientation and mobility Systematic techniques to plan routes and move from place to place for persons with visual impairments.

orthopedic impairments Physical disabilities that occur from congenital anomalies, diseases, or other causes that adversely affect a child's educational performance.

orthotics Various braces or splints that are used to help maintain alignment and decrease the development of contractures.

ossicular chain Three bones in the middle ear (malleus, incus, and stapes) that connect the eardrum to the inner ear and help to amplify sounds.

other health impairment A chronic or acute health problem that results in limited strength, vitality, or alertness and adversely affects educational performance.

otitis media Infection of the middle ear space, causing conductive hearing loss.

outer directedness A condition characterized by a loss of confidence in one's own capabilities and a reliance on others for cues and guidance.

outer ear The most visible (external) part of the ear, useful in funneling sound to the ear canal and in localizing the source of sound.

oval window The link between the inner ear and the middle ear.

overrepresentation A situation in which a greater number of students from minority groups are placed in special education programs than would be expected based on the proportion of pupils in the general school population.

paraplegia Paralysis (or spasticity) of the legs.

perinatal Events occurring at or immediately after birth.

person-centered planning Useful when developing a student's individualized education program; creates a vision for pupil's future based on an analysis of his or her strengths, needs, and preferences.

phenylketonuria (PKU) An inherited metabolic disorder resulting from the inability of the body to convert phenylalanine to tyrosine; can be detected at birth and controlled by diet; left untreated, consequences are often severe.

phonation Includes speech factors of pitch, loudness, and quality.

phonological awareness Possible explanation for the reading problems of some students with learning

disabilities; difficulty in recognizing the correspondence between specific sounds and certain letters that make up words.

phonological disorder Abnormal organization of phonological system resulting in a significant deficit in speech production or perception.

phonology The sound system of a language, including the use of sounds to create meaningful syllables and words.

photophobic Sensitive to light.

physical restraint The restriction of a student's freedom of movement, physical activity, or access to his or her body.

play audiometry A method for measuring hearing sensitivity in young children by rewarding correct responses; turning the evaluation situation into a game in order to maintain interest and cooperation.

portfolio assessment A type of authentic assessment; samples of different work products gathered over time and across curriculum areas are evaluated.

positive behavioral support An alternative approach to punishment; a schoolwide, proactive way of addressing problematic behaviors.

postlingual Referring to the period of time after a child has developed language.

postnatal Events occurring after birth.

pragmatic difficulties Problems in understanding and using language in different social contexts.

pragmatics A sociolinguistic system involving the use of communication skills in social contexts.

preassessment An assessment of a pupil's previously acquired knowledge; allows teacher to provide differentiated learning experiences.

precipitous birth Birth that occurs in less than two hours.

prelingual Referring to the period of time prior to a child's development of language.

prelinguistic Communicative behaviors used by children before the formation of formal speech and language characteristics.

premature births Babies born prior to 37 weeks of gestation age.

prenatal Events occurring before birth.

prereferral intervention Instructional or behavioral strategies introduced by a general educator to assist students experiencing difficulty; designed to minimize inappropriate referrals for special education.

prevalence The total number of individuals in a given category during a particular period of time.

primary literacy medium An individual's most frequently used method of reading and writing.

primary prevention Activities aimed at eliminating a problem or condition prior to its onset; may also refer to reducing the number of new instances of problematic behavior.

print disabilities A disability that prevents an individual from gaining information from printed material; requires the use of alternative methods to access the material.

problem-based learning Instructional approach in which authentic problems having multiple solutions are addressed through the application of critical thinking skills.

progress monitoring The frequent and systematic assessment of a pupil's academic progress.

proximity and movement management A classroom management strategy focusing on the effective use of classroom space and the arrangement of the physical environment as a means of minimizing disruptive behavior.

psychogenic theories Freudian perspective that if basic psychological bonds are not established between the parent and the child, the child will not be able to establish relationships with others and will fail to progress. Individual psychotherapy recommended as the treatment of choice.

psychostimulants Medications typically prescribed for persons with ADHD. These drugs activate or enhance specific aspects of neurological functioning that in turn affect executive functions.

pupil The circular opening at the center of the iris that controls the amount of light allowed into the eye.

pure-tone audiometry A procedure for measuring hearing sensitivity at certain frequencies using tones that are presented at various intensities.

quadriplegia Paralysis (or spasticity) of both legs and both arms.

rebound effect The behavioral deterioration sometimes observed in persons with ADHD as the effect of psychostimulant medication gradually wears off.

receptive language The ability to understand what is meant by spoken communication.

referral A formal request by a teacher or parent that a student be evaluated for special education services.

regular education initiative (REI) An approach that advocates that general educators assume greater responsibility for the education of students with disabilities.

related services Services defined by federal law whose purpose is to assist a student with exceptionalities derive benefit from a special education.

reliable means of response A consistent, reliable way of answering questions.

residual vision An individual's usable vision.

resonance Sound quality of speech.

respite care Temporary or occasional care of an individual with disabilities by nonfamily members.

response to intervention (RTI) A strategy used for determining whether a pupil has a learning disability. Student is exposed to increasing levels of validated instructional intervention; responsiveness to the instruction is assessed; a lack of adequate progress typically leads to a referral for possible special education services.

retina The inner layer of the eye containing light-sensitive cells that connect with the brain through the optic nerve.

retinitis pigmentosa Pigmentation of the retina that can result in night blindness, photophobia, and eventual loss of vision in various parts of the periphery.

retinopathy of prematurity (ROP) An interruption in the vascular system of the eye, due to premature birth, in which veins and arteries begin to grow in an unorganized manner and cause bundles that pull together and detach the retina, resulting in loss of peripheral vision or total blindness.

Rh incompatibility A condition that results when a woman who is Rh negative carries an Rh positive fetus. Mother's body will produce antibodies that can affect babies resulting from future pregnancies; often leads to intellectual disabilities and other impairments if mother does not receive an injection of Rho immune globulin.

rod cells Light-sensitive cells located mainly in the peripheral areas of the retina that are responsible for shape and motion, function best in reduced illumination, and are not responsive to color.

rubella A viral disease also known as German measles; contact in first trimester of pregnancy often results in a variety of significant impairments.

scaffolding A cognitive teaching strategy in which teacher provides temporary support to student who is learning a new task; supports are gradually removed as pupil becomes increasingly competent with the activity.

seclusion The involuntary confinement of a student to a room or area from which he or she is physically prevented from leaving.

secondary prevention Efforts focusing on minimizing or eliminating potential risk factors in regard to persons with emotional or behavioral disorders; refers to minimizing the possibility that maladaptive or inappropriate behaviors will occur.

seizure A sudden, temporary change in the normal functioning of the brain's electrical system due to excessive, uncontrolled electrical activity in the brain.

self-advocacy Speaking out for one's personal preferences; protecting one's own interests.

self-contained A separate classroom for children with disabilities, usually found in a public school.

self-determination Self-advocacy efforts by an individual with a disability; expression of desire to live one's life according to one's own wishes; assuming personal control over one's life.

self-instruction A cognitive strategy for changing behavior; pupils initially talk to themselves out loud while performing a task and verbally reward themselves for success.

self-monitoring strategies A behavioral self-control strategy; pupils compare their performance to a criterion, record their efforts, and obtain reinforcement if appropriate.

self-regulation The ability of an individual to manage or govern his or her own behavior.

semantic disorder Language difficulty associated with poor vocabulary development, inappropriate use of word meanings, and/or inability to comprehend word meanings.

semantics A psycholinguistic system that involves word meanings and word relationships and their use in communication.

sensorineural hearing loss The loss of sound sensitivity produced by abnormalities of the inner ear or nerve pathways beyond the inner ear to the brain.

sheltered workshop A structured work environment for persons with disabilities in which vocational and social skills are often the focus of attention; may be a temporary or permanent placement.

short-term memory The recall of information after a brief period of time.

Snellen chart An eye chart of clinical measurement of the true amount of distance vision an individual has under certain conditions.

social skills training Using direct instruction to teach students appropriate social behaviors; goal is to increase individual's social competency and acceptance.

socially maladjusted Individuals whose social behaviors are atypical; often regarded as chronic social offenders.

sound field system A system to assist students with hearing impairments in which the teacher wears a microphone that transmits a signal to a speaker strategically placed in the classroom rather than to a body-worn receiver.

spastic cerebral palsy A type of cerebral palsy in which the person has very tight muscles occurring in one or more muscle groups, resulting in stiff, uncoordinated movements.

special education Specially designed instruction to meet the unique needs of an individual recognized as exceptional.

specialized instructional strategies Teaching techniques specifically designed for a particular special education population to assist with learning specific material.

speech The expression of language via sounds; the oral modality for language.

speech audiometry A set of procedures for measuring auditory perception of speech, including syllables, words, and sentences.

speech generating devices (SGD) A high-tech augmentative or alternative communication device capable of generating speech.

speech recognition threshold (SRT) A measure of threshold sensitivity for speech. The SRT represents the softest sound level at which a listener can identify the stimuli 50 percent of the time.

spina bifida Failure of the neural tube to completely close during fetal development. In its most severe form, the baby is born with a sac on his or her back containing part of the spinal cord.

spread The practice of spreading inferences to other unrelated aspects of a disability, often resulting in stereotyping.

stage theory A hypothesized pattern of parental reaction to the news that their child has a disability.

standard deviation A descriptive statistic that expresses the variability and distribution of a set of scores relative to the mean.

stapes The third of the middle ear bones for conducting sound to the inner ear. It resembles a stirrup in shape and is sometimes called the stirrup. It is the smallest bone in the body.

statistically derived classification system A system developed to analyze patterns of behaviors based on statistical procedures that characterize children and youth with emotional or behavioral disorders.

stigmatization To experience undesired negative attention due to using assistive technology.

strength-based assessment An assessment model that looks at an individual's strengths, abilities, and accomplishments rather than focusing on his or her deficits.

Strauss syndrome A historical term applied to individuals with intellectual disabilities who exhibit high levels of distractibility and hyperactivity.

stuttering Type of fluency disorder in which word sounds are repeated.

substitutions Articulation disorder that occurs when one sound is substituted for another in the pronunciation of a word (e.g., wabbit for rabbit).

summary of performance Required by federal regulation for each student who exits secondary school, a summary of the individual's academic achievement and functional performance with recommendations for supports and services aimed at assisting the adolescent in achieving his or her transition goals.

supported competitive employment At a worksite for typical workers, individuals with disabilities are employed and work alongside their typical peers but receive ongoing assistance from a job coach.

supported eText An eText that allows for content to be presented in multiple modalities while providing additional supports.

syntactical deficits Difficulty in acquiring the rules that control word order and other aspects of grammar.

syntax A series of linguistic rules that determine word order and combinations to form sentences and how such word order is used in the communication process.

syphilis A venereal disease; infection of the mother in the last trimester of pregnancy can cause intellectual disabilities in the child.

systems of care model Providing an individually tailored and coordinated system of services and care to students with emotional or behavioral disorders; developed by family members and service providers.

task analysis An instructional methodology whereby complex tasks are analyzed and broken down into sequential component parts; each part is taught separately and then as a whole.

technology productivity tools Computer software, hardware, and related systems designed to help people work effectively.

telecommunication device for the deaf (TDD) An instrument for sending typewritten messages over telephone lines to be received by a person who is deaf or severely hearing impaired as a printed message. Sometimes called TT, TTY, or TTD.

teratogen Infections, drugs, chemicals, or environmental agents that can produce fetal abnormalities.

tertiary prevention Efforts that attempt to limit the adverse consequences of an existing problem while maximizing a person's potential; in regard to persons with emotional or behavioral disorders, refers to an intense level of intervention using strategies and supports designed for individuals with chronic and intense behavior problems.

theory of mind A hypothesis that attempts to explain the inability of the individual with autism to realize that other people have their own unique point of view about the world—different thoughts, plans, and

perspectives from their own.

therapeutic abortion Elective termination of a pregnancy due to the presence of a birth defect.

tiered assignments An instructional strategy that allows the teacher to offer variations of the same lesson to students with differing levels of ability.

time management A proactive intervention strategy that attempts to maximize student engagement time and appropriately schedule class activities in addition to instruction in time management skills.

tonic-clonic seizure A convulsive seizure whereby the individual loses consciousness, falls, and begins making rhythmic jerking motions, formerly known as grand mal seizures.

total communication A method of communication for students with hearing impairments, designed to provide equal emphasis on oral and signing skills to facilitate communication ability.

Tourette's syndrome A neurological disorder characterized by motor tics and uncontrollable verbal outbursts.

toxoplasmosis A maternal infection resulting from contact with parasites; especially devastating if exposure occurs during third trimester of pregnancy.

trainable mentally retarded Classification of a person with moderate intellectual disabilities who is capable of learning self-care and social skills; IQ range generally between 35/40 and 50/55.

transdisciplinary A group of professionals from different disciplines who function as a team but work independently; however, they share roles and a peer is identified as the primary interventionist.

transition A broad term used to describe the movement of an individual from one educational environment to another, from one class to another, or from one phase of life (high school) to another (independent adulthood).

transition management The regulating of students as they move from one assignment to another or from one activity to another; a proactive behavioral intervention strategy.

transition plan *See* individualized transition plan

transition services Individualized and coordinated services that assist the adolescent with a disability to successfully move from school to postschool activities.

transliteration Altering an interpreted message to facilitate understanding by a person who is hearing impaired.

traumatic brain injury An acquired injury to the brain caused by an external force that results in a disability or psychosocial impairment that adversely affects educational performance.

twice-exceptional Students who are gifted and talented but also have a disability.

tympenic membrane A thin, membranous tissue between the ear canal and the middle ear that vibrates when struck by sound waves; also called the eardrum.

underrepresentation A situation in which fewer children from minority groups are placed in special education programs than would be expected based on the proportion of pupils in the general school population.

universal design for learning The design of curriculum materials, instructional activities, and evaluation procedures that can meet the needs of learners with widely varying abilities and backgrounds.

Usher syndrome An inherited disorder resulting in deaf-blindness, deafness present at birth accompanied by progressive vision loss, sometimes associated with intellectual disabilities.

vision screening A simple measure to determine possible vision loss.

visual acuity The ability to visually perceive details of near or distant objects.

visual efficiency How well an individual uses remaining visual acuity at a distance or close up.

visual field The amount of vision in the quadrant regions to the right, left, up, and down while gazing straight ahead.

visual impairment An impairment in vision that, even with correction, adversely affects an individual's educational performance. The term includes both partial sight and blindness.

vitreous body The thick, clear liquid gel that serves as a filter for light and helps maintain the shape of the eye.

vitreous humor A colorless mass of soft, gelatinlike material that fills the eyeball behind the lens.

voice disorders May result from disorders of the larynx or disorders in phonation.

voice output communication aid (VOCA) Device that can be programmed to produce speech.

walker A mobility aid for individuals requiring support when walking.

word prediction program A software program that provides a list of potential words that correspond to the letters the user is typing so that the user does not have to type out the entire word.

working memory The ability to retain information while also engaging in another cognitive activity.

wraparound plan A coordinated interagency effort at providing supports and services to a student and his or her family in the natural environment—school, home, or community.

X-linked A pattern of inheritance involving the X chromosome, one of an individual's two sex chromosomes.