



Educational Psychology: Children with Special Needs

University of Regina

Objectives for Innovation

Computer-mediated instruction, with
print and a face-to-face
weekend session

Audience

Third and fourth year undergraduate
Education students
K-12 teachers

Results Achieved

Upper year university-credit course
primarily online
Increased access to required
special education course
Flexible access for students across
the province and at the
University of Regina

Partners

University of Saskatchewan,
Regional Colleges, SIAST

Implementation

September 1996

Additional Benefits

Positive student comments: "I would
definitely take more classes in this
manner – it's one of the best learning
experiences I have had so far"
Instructor reports "an invaluable learning
experience for those who may feel
isolated not only in a classroom,
but also in a community"

This program offers an upper year university-credit course in special education, Educational Psychology 322 (Children with Special Needs), primarily online. Students interact with each other and the instructor through group conferencing and private e-mail facilities, using FirstClass software.

The course introduces students to issues and strategies for working with children who have special needs. It examines the children's characteristics and their implications for classroom practice. Using an innovative interactive group approach with the instructor's guidance, students assume responsibility for building their knowledge and skills in the topic areas.

This approach, coupled with the use of technology, models the manner in which teachers resolve issues and respond to a child's special needs, usually as part of an interdisciplinary team. It also patterns the problem solving techniques that teachers often use in working with others at a distance in smaller communities, where expertise is not readily available.

Educational Psychology 322 is the first course in a series required for special needs certification in teaching. Computer-mediated communication is a flexible way to offer this high demand program for teachers across the province.

Contact

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