

STM 3 AND LOW-ABILITY STUDENTS

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My aim is to give these students a degree of success in mathematics and a feeling that it is not impossible to achieve. The mathematics they learn must be applicable to the basic necessities of everyday life.

To achieve the above, the following are uppermost in mind:

- Instill in the students that math is not impossible.
- Make math as simple and meaningful as possible.
- Teach and re-teach basic principles and operations and how and when to use them (for example, key words).
- Give praise and self-confidence constantly.
- Give individual help.
- Students must participate in math activities - attention span limited.
- Integrate students - must be part of a group.
- Success or failure depends on attitude, skill, and understanding of the teacher, plus empathy for this type of student.
- The teacher must have a plan for the year's course, but it must be flexible.
- Do not become textbook-bound.

Although I had only worked with this class for six weeks before they were confronted with a school exam, there were 6 C's and 7 D's on the normal school curve. In previous years they always scored the lowest of the low. At last, I do not hear the remark "I never could do math, I am dumb!"

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