

# SPECIAL EDUCATION: THE BASICS

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# TURN N' TALK: WHO'S IN THE ROOM?



## INTRODUCE YOURSELF

- NAME
- WHO ARE YOU?
- WHO'S ON YOUR MIND?
- WHAT ARE YOU EXPECTING FROM TODAY'S SESSION?

# OBJECTIVES

- Increase our understanding of disability categories and the special education process
- Apply a more inclusive academic approach to students with disabilities
- Build your toolbox around students with disabilities and literacy



# INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT (IDEA)

- Federal law that governs special education and related services
- Emphasizes “specially designed instruction, at no cost to parents, to meet the unique needs of a child with a disability.”
  - Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)



# INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT ACT (IDEA) 2004

- A revised version of IDEA
- Provides very specific requirements to ENSURE a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) for students with disabilities



# THE SPECIAL EDUCATION PROCESS





# DISABILITY CATEGORIES



- Autism
- Deaf-Blindness
- Deafness
- Emotional Disturbance
- Hearing Impairment
- Intellectual Disability
- Multiple Disabilities
- Orthopedic Impairment

- Other Health Impairment
- Specific Learning Disability
- Speech or Language Impairment
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Visual Impairment



# WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE?



## Specific Learning Disability

### Challenges...

- reading and/or writing.
- with math.
- with memory.
- paying attention.
- following directions.
- telling time.
- staying organized.

## Speech and Language Impairment

### Challenges...

- understanding what others are saying
- expressing thoughts and ideas
- understanding and using spoken language

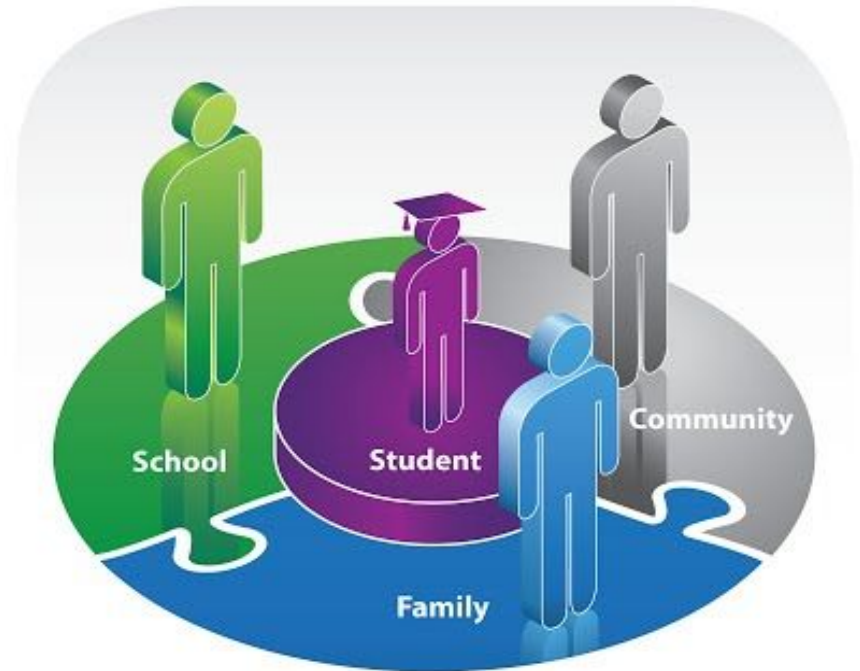
## Emotional Disability

- Hyperactivity (short attention span, impulsiveness);
- Aggression or self-injurious behavior (acting out, fighting);
- Withdrawal (not interacting socially with others, excessive fear or anxiety);
- Immaturity (inappropriate crying, temper tantrums, poor coping skills); and
- Learning difficulties (academically performing below grade level).



# SCHOOL, FAMILY, AND COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS

- Share student information
  - Release of Information
  - Student progress updates
  - Reach out to schools and organizations that support your student
- Increase family and community engagement
  - Provide opportunities for parents to work together and learn from one another
  - Offer classes and courses for families (co-facilitate with community leaders and/or schools)
  - Develop purposeful community partnerships



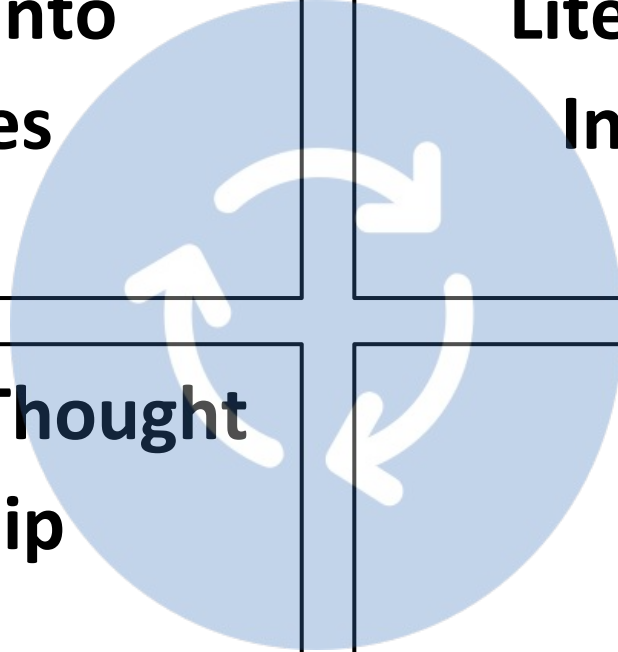
# STATIONS

**Deep Dive into  
Disabilities**

**Literacy Focused  
Interventions**

**SPED Focused Thought  
Partnership**

**Resources**

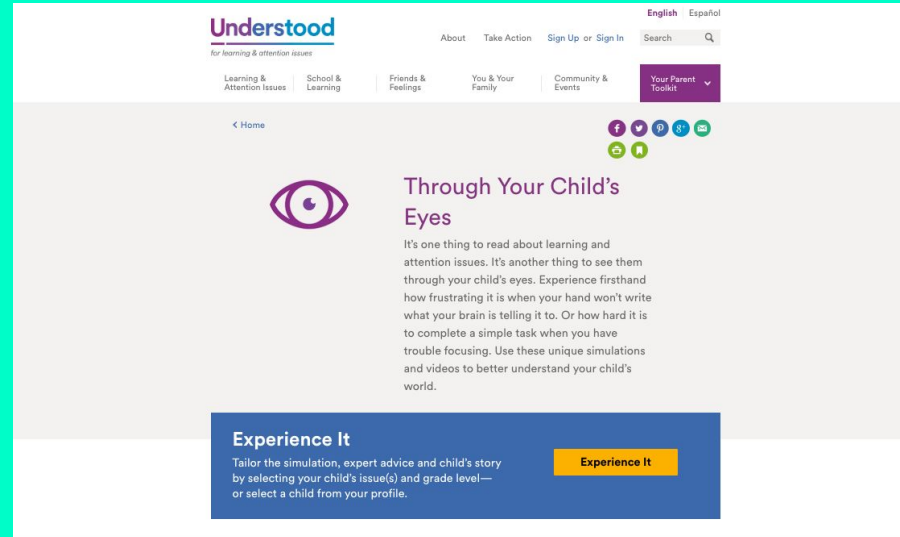


# STATION GUIDELINES

- There are DIRECTIONS at *every* station
- You will have 13 minutes per station
- Music will play for 2 minutes which represents *transition time*.
  
- The Art of Conversation (Norms by Margaret Wheatley)
  - We acknowledge one another as equals
  - We try to stay curious about each other
  - We recognize that we need each other's help to become better listeners
  - We slow down so we have time to think and reflect
  - We remember that conversation is the natural way humans think together
  - We expect it to be messy at times

- Go to [Understood.org](https://www.understood.org)
  - Scroll down to the section that reads “Experience Personalized Tools”
    - Go to “Through Your Child’s Eyes”
      - Select Reading and/or Writing
      - Select grade level
      - Click “Experience It – Through Your Child’s Eyes”
      - Please use **headphones** if you have them OR spread out as an option
- Follow the simulation directions
- Read & Respond (graphic organizer)

# EXPERIENCE IT!



The screenshot shows the Understood.org website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Understood logo, language options (English, Español), and a search bar. Below the navigation bar are several menu items: Learning & Attention Issues, School & Learning, Friends & Feelings, You & Your Family, and Community & Events. A purple button labeled 'Your Parent Toolkit' is also visible. The main content area features a large purple eye icon and the title 'Through Your Child's Eyes'. The text below the title explains the simulation: 'It's one thing to read about learning and attention issues. It's another thing to see them through your child's eyes. Experience firsthand how frustrating it is when your hand won't write what your brain is telling it to. Or how hard it is to complete a simple task when you have trouble focusing. Use these unique simulations and videos to better understand your child's world.' At the bottom of the page, there is a blue box with the text 'Experience It' and a sub-headline: 'Tailor the simulation, expert advice and child's story by selecting your child's issue(s) and grade level— or select a child from your profile.' A yellow button labeled 'Experience It' is positioned to the right of this text.