

Teacher's Guide – Overview

Infants, toddlers, children and even teens with developmental, cognitive or learning disabilities are all highly visual learners.

In particular, via anecdotal testimonials from many parents — as well as numerous studies conducted in 2003 and 2004 — it has been proven that video is one of the most effective ways to reach and teach this audience.

SPECIAL KIDS Video Modeling Therapy Programs are the world's original video program created SPECIFICALLY for the child with special needs. Pioneered by a parent of a child with autism, founded on the success he had teaching his child and others through video, prompted by worldwide demand, SPECIAL KIDS Video Modeling Therapy Programs are now embraced in more than 30 countries and 500 US school systems.

A library of 11 unique, effective SPECIAL KIDS Video Modeling Therapy Programs now exists, for use in both the school and home settings.

The goal? To reach and teach persons developmental ages 0 – 12 years speech, writing, reading, communications, early academics, social, play, self-help and personal hygiene skills.

REVIEWS

Hundreds of parent and teacher testimonials are available to support the effectiveness of SPECIAL KIDS. Some reviews include:

“Great. Fun. Entertaining for all children.” — *Exceptional Parent*

“Video is clearly demonstrated to be a novel and expanding technology for positive behavioral support.

The use of video technology can lead to a range of positive social, language, and academic outcomes for children with a variety of disabilities. It may be used in a variety of ways as an educational intervention. Videos may present peer, self-, or adult models of appropriate social and language behavior. Observing a videotape of correct performance can also be used as a correction procedure. Video technology also has the potential to promote stimulus control of appropriate child behavior through nonsocial stimuli, thus freeing the child from reliance upon prompts from other people. Finally, video technology can be incorporated as one element within a broad package of positive behavioral support for children with disabilities.”

— *Journal of Positive Behavior Interventions*



SPECIAL KIDS

Video Modeling
Therapy Programs

Especially Created For
Children of Development
Ages
0 – 12 Years

Highly Effective As
A Teaching Tool For Children With
All Types of Developmental,
Cognitive and Learning
Disabilities
— *Journal of Positive Behavior
Interventions*

**Things in
a Day**

TMW K4033

Teacher's Guide

Determine your audience.

Are your special needs students visual learners? Do they show an interest in television, video programs or computer programs? Can they maintain focus, even for a limited time?

If yes, then SPECIAL KIDS may be able to reach and teach them!

Push and play.

Very simply, insert your SPECIAL KIDS Video Modeling Therapy Program into your VCR or DVD player...and push play.

SPECIAL KIDS programming is designed to be slow, repetitive, calming in nature. Because children with developmental disabilities, in particular those on the autism spectrum disorder, can be easily excited, fast-motion graphics and excessively loud or highly rhythmic music is minimized.

Study your subjects. While some may show interest in SPECIAL KIDS immediately, others may wander or drift in and out of program viewing. Keep in mind: all types of viewers may well be learning, in their own particular way.

Show SPECIAL KIDS on a daily basis. Watch for emerging skills, sometimes within only a few days. And remember, every child learns at his or her own pace.

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Participative learning.

Participate with your students in SPECIAL KIDS viewing and learning.

For early academics programs:

- Find the subject — alphabet, numbers, shapes, colors — in the real world
- Practice writing
- Practice reading
- Practice and participate in identifying

QuickTime™ and a
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

For social skills programs:

- Practice the skill or proper behavior
- Role play
- Focus on the concept of rewards
- Imitate visual and verbal learning
- Have students participate with each other

For self-help and hygiene programs:

- Practice the skill
- Role play
- Have students practice at home
- Recommend SPECIAL KIDS for home use, too

How SPECIAL KIDS teaches.

SPECIAL KIDS employs the following teaching methods:

- **Multi-Associative Learning:** here, SPECIAL KIDS combines **video** of an object, action or person through real-time video or photography, with the **audio** association of its identification through the spoken word, with the **verbal** association of its identification through computer-generated or handwritten words
- **Modeling:** The simple video modeling of actions, events and proper behaviors
- **Generalization:** The grouping of objects, actions or events in their proper category or sequence
- **Repetition:** Repetitive presentation of materials, in a variety of approaches, to reiterate, yet entertain
- **The Human Element.** Very importantly, Special Kids features the human element — via host “John,” father of a boy with autism — that *Newsweek* calls essential to learning

