Resources for Schools

- *Introduction to Brain-Compatible Learning & Brain Compatible Strategies* (1998) by Eric Jensen, is the first of two volumes and provides a step-by-step guidebook to exploring the emerging paradigm of brain compatible learning. The second volume includes hundreds of easy-to-use brain-compatible activities that boost attention, motivation, learning and achievement. Both volumes are easy to read and use. To purchase go to jensenlearning.com/products/books.

- *Teaching Kids with Learning Difficulties in the Regular Classroom: Strategies and Techniques Every Teacher Can Use to Challenge and Motivate Struggling Students* (1996) by Susan Winebrenner, is a gold mine of proven, practical ways to help students with a variety of special learning needs, without watering down content, lowering expectations or depriving other students of the time and attention they need. The comprehensive menu of options covers learning styles, language literacy, science, math, social studies, behavior problems and more, presenting powerful and effective methods any teacher can use to help all students become successful learners. To order, visit freespirit.com or call 800-735-7323.

- *Emergent Readers for Little Believers* (1997) is a set of Bible story readers including: “I See God Everywhere,” “I Thank God, God is Love,” “Two by Two,” “God is With Us,” “Jonah and the Whale,” “God Gave Me a Face for Feelings,” “Lord, Do you Love Me?,” “God’s Children,” “Creation,” “Noah’s Ark” and “Joseph’s Coat.” There are two reading levels and each book costs approximately $2.50. Note: This set of readers is perhaps best suited for a resource room or other Lutheran school classroom, but it is going out of print soon. It is only available by calling the publisher and cannot be found on the website. This series can be found for sale on major online book sales companies’ websites.

For more information contact Grace Publishing/McGraw Hill at 800-421-5565.

- *Sensitivity and Awareness* (1996) is a guide for developing understanding among children. In addition to background information about specific disabilities, the guide also provides lesson plans for use with pre-primary, primary and middle-school children. Plans coordinate with Turtle Books, easy-to-read books that talk honestly about what it’s like to be a child with a disability. Each book in the 12-book series tells a story of a young child with physical, mental and language impairments including cerebral palsy, Down syndrome and communication disorders. To order go to abebooks.com.

- *Exceptional Teaching: A Comprehensive Guide for Including Students with Disabilities* (2002) by Jim Pierson, explains the characteristics of 77 diagnoses so that you can identify the challenges, learn how to approach that child, know what teaching and discipline methods work best, and understand what you can expect that child to accomplish. This book is written from a Christian perspective and includes chapters on providing Christian education, ministering with the family of a student with a disability and disability ministry programs.


Delicate Threads: Friendships between Children with and without Special Needs in Inclusive Settings (1998) by Debbie Staub, Ph.D., is the culmination of Staub’s years of careful observations of friendships between seven pairs of children — each including a child with a moderate to severe disability — who are classmates in an inclusive elementary school. It is an interesting look at the nature of friendship and how friendships affect the lives of children with and without disabilities, as well as the benefits of inclusion. Available on amazon.com.

Differences in Common: Straight Talk on Mental Retardation, Down Syndrome, and Life (2003) by Marilyn Trainer, is a collection of almost 50 essays that span more than 20 years of a mother’s experiences raising a son with Down syndrome. The author covers a wide variety of issues with the warmth and insight that only a mother can give. Available on amazon.com.

From the Heart: On Being the Mother of a Child with Special Needs (1995) includes nine mothers exploring the intense, sometimes painful, emotional terrain of raising children with such special needs as autism, Down syndrome, ADD and multiple disabilities. They discuss relationships with professionals, family life, work, school issues, and reflect on feelings about themselves and their closest friends and family. Available on amazon.com.

The Differentiated Classroom: Responding to the Needs of All Learners by Carol Ann Tomlinson Today’s classroom is more diverse, more inclusive and more plugged into technology than ever before. And it’s led by teachers under enormous pressure to help decidedly unstandardized students meet an expanding set of rigorous, standardized learning targets. In this updated second edition of her best-selling classic work, Carol Ann Tomlinson offers these teachers a powerful and practical way to meet a challenge that is both very modern and completely timeless: how to divide their time, resources and efforts to effectively instruct so many students of various backgrounds, readiness, skill levels and interests. Available on amazon.com.

Assessment and Student Success in a Differentiated Classroom by Carol Ann Tomlinson and Tonya R. Moon take an in-depth look at assessment and show how differentiation can improve the process in all grade levels and subject areas. After discussing differentiation in general, the authors focus on how differentiation applies to various forms of assessment — pre-assessment, formative assessment and summative assessment — and to grading and report cards. Available on amazon.com.

The Power of Neurodiversity by Thomas Armstrong Bestselling author, psychologist and educator Thomas Armstrong illuminates a new understanding of neuropsychological disorders such as ADHD, dyslexia and autism. He argues that if they are a part of the natural diversity of the human brain, they cannot simply be defined as illnesses. Armstrong explores the evolutionary advantages, special skills and other positive dimensions of these conditions. Available on amazon.com.