

Lesson Plan

Objective: To empower the student through the development of a portfolio to illustrate current accomplishments and educational progress.

Setting and materials: Instruction takes place in a classroom setting. Adequate space to house the portfolios.

Content taught

Portfolio assessment is an alternative assessment method of measuring a student's performance by purposefully collecting student's accomplishments over time that provides reliable and valid information about a student.

Portfolio Assessment Criteria Checklist

- Involve student in the selection of best pieces
- Include raw data and summarizing data
- Shows no conflict in purposes of the portfolio
- Involve collection of student samples over time
- Involve student in the self-reflection process
- Include contents different from a cumulative folder
- Include contents generated from multiple procedures
- Include teacher's own instructional reflections
- Show evidence of teacher and student collaboratively setting goals
- Incorporate student-teacher conferences
- Involve students in the self-assessment process
- Incorporate tasks that are performed in authentic contexts
- Include a mutually agreed upon criteria for evaluation

Teaching procedure

Although no specific teaching procedures were discussed, the following advantages of using portfolio assessment were provided:

- Individual student communication: Teachers encourage students to share accomplishments and subsequently become more willing to collaborate.
- Parent communication: Visual representation of portfolios facilitates better parent/teacher conferences.
- Communication for accountability: The portfolio provides more information than test results.
- Student outcomes domain: Self-determination and student learning outcomes result because of the implementation of portfolio assessment.

- Time domain: Promote organizational time and record-keeping time in the development of the portfolio.
- Support domain: Provide both human support and financial support.

Method of evaluation

- Parent or student interviews about portfolio assessment
- Use Portfolio Assessment Criteria Checklist to evaluate student portfolios.

Lesson plan based on: Ezell, D., Klein, C. E. & Ezell-Powell, S. (1999). Empowering students with mental retardation through portfolio assessment: A tool for fostering self-determination skills. Education and Training in Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, 34, 453-463.