

# **Pure Curriculum for Exceptional Learners**

## **Sensible Adaptations for Effective Learning**

Amanda Banks, MS  
Special Educator/Curriculum Consultant  
Pulaski County Public Schools  
Pulaski, Virginia

## **Sensible Adaptations for Exceptional Students**

- **“Pure Focus** on Target Skill(s)...Worksheets & Notes = Inescapable Multi-tasking
- **Concrete Examples** (manipulatives)
- **Speed and Ease**...Implementation
- **Increased Practice**
- **Measurable:** What to do, How much (# of trials), Parameter (beginning & end, self-contained)

## **Goal: Ease of Presentation**

### **Sensible Adaptations for Exceptional Learners**

- Increased Opportunity for Teacher Modeling
- Ease in Guided Practice
- Independent Practice... Gradable Work
- Implementation for Small Groups

## **Candidates for Pure Curriculum**

- All Learners!
- Especially those who have fine motor challenges (handwriting), spatial orientation issues, organizational (executive functioning) challenges, and difficulty isolating key information.
- Universally, students with autism spectrum disorder

## **Benefits to Educators**

### **Sensible Adaptations for Exceptional Learners**

- Some task components are recyclable
- Increased life span of materials
- Greater portability among colleagues
- Practice sets for home
- Excellent way to tighten paraprofessional involvement in the educational process
- Systematic...conducive to data collection (percentage correct analysis over time)
- Identification of exact trouble spots in scaffolded learning

## **Visual Examples**

### **Sensible Adaptations for Exceptional Learners**

- Handwriting Practice Sheet (Lower Case Letters)
- Spelling Word Graphic Organizer
- Adapted Coloring Sheet
- Preposition Activity (under, over, in, out)
- Digraph and Consonant Blend Sort

## **SOL Assessments, VGLA Portfolios, VAAP Assessments**

- Literally all learning objectives within the SOL framework can be 'purified.'
- VGLA activities may be created for inclusion in an assessment portfolio
- VAAP assessment activities can be easily created and implemented

## **Make and Take Activities**

**Supplies & Instructions available at each table**

- Sorting Grid
- Capital/Lower Case Letter Sort
- Noun/Adjective Sort
- Pronoun/Noun Sort
- Alphabetizing Task
- Storage Sheets