

## Reflection on Critique a Journal Article on a Current Issue in Special Education

Competency #25 Teacher will be able to comment critically on a current issue facing teachers in regard to inclusive education. Artifact: Critique a journal article on a current issue in special education.

The current issue in this article is around a lack of training preparation for inclusive education in regard to special education training within Canadian Universities. The four major universities were only offering the students 1 course to prepare them for the workforce. I see this as a major issue especially for students coming out of the program with a lack of experience in working with person with exceptionalities. The new teachers coming out of the program were more willing to be inclusive in their practice, which show a great mindset but without formalized training, and teachers lacking the experience in an inclusive setting, this could be a recipe for failure, stress and burnout. One thing I didn't really consider when reading through this article until now was how it is the responsibility of teacher to prepare themselves for their roles. Teachers are able to take matters into their own hands and participate in professional development and try to gain as much knowledge they would need around special education. It is impossible to go through a program that can teach us everything we need to know. Although it would be wonderful to have more training in our programs, we need to realize this is not happening and we should be proactive in taking matters into our own hands. Teachers are fully capable of finding online courses where they can learn more and invest in the time they need to be prepared. I think every teacher should do research once they find out who their students are in their classrooms, on what exceptionalities they will working with. They need to know how to work with the students' learning obstacles in order for those children to be successful. It can be easy to complain and not take action around the extra preparation needed to have a successful school year with the students we are working with. We need to do our due diligence to be able to provide our students with what they require. As I reflect on this article and think about my child's school experiences and how he wasn't offered all the support he required to do well. The lack of support he received from some teachers, was most likely due to insufficient training. Training they could have taken on by doing their part in changing their level of knowledge. The outcomes they are experiencing with an inclusive classroom are a result of the effort they are giving. Those teachers struggled because they didn't have the appropriate knowledge and tools to work with him and should have been considering how they can make a change for the positive. Often times people will take the easy way and sweep things under the rug but how is this benefitting the student when they are just falling further behind and needs are not being addressed. I recall a teacher telling me I could not send my child to school without him taking his ADHD medication, if it was missed, she informed me that I would be called to come and pick him up from school. She stated he could not be in the classroom without it. This attitude demonstrates a fixed mindset and sets up a student towards learned helplessness and failure. If I could make a wish it would be around teachers taking on the responsibility to enroll themselves in special education courses beyond what the universities offer at the BEd level.