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Week 9: Contemporary Trends in Education: Special Education

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Prompt Choice:

Special Education: is a tiered level of support classrooms where neurodivergent students can receive individualized instruction and support.

Response:

I think that special education is a wonderful thing. Many students within the special education realm really benefit both socially and academically from mainstreaming but may not hold on to the information or be able to participate to the fullest extent in those mainstreaming classes. Their specialized classrooms allow for them to work on goals that increase their knowledge and give them extra support in both behavioral and life skills areas. My EFE placement is an inclusive environment. Some of the ways I see this are how the class is open to both Moderate/Mild and Extensive Support Needs students. Another way I think this class is inclusive is how my EFE teacher decorates her class with diverse historical and pop cultural activists and celebrities such as Cesar Chavez, Anne Frank, and Quannah Chasinghorse. Some of the pros of special education are that students who are all at different levels are able to be taught where they're at or have an individualized education. Another pro is that having these special classes gives Special Education Teachers the opportunity to give extra support for any behaviors that might be too

difficult to address in a general education setting. Cons of special education is that we are having a huge problem with staffing these classrooms not only with support staff which are essential but also with special education teachers. No special education is not a problem in education although I would like to take time to address the aforementioned problems since that was a part of the prompt. One of the reasons that it is hard to find qualified support teachers is that in some cases they are making less than McDonald's workers but at times having to toilet students, support students through difficult behaviors etc. For teachers I think some of the main issues are that we have so much time documenting behaviors, writing IEP, trying to discover not only the function of the behavior but also have to help a child work through behaviors that they have been experiencing for years. I think a huge way to help Special Education teachers is to separate the job of case managers from the teacher role so that Special Education teachers can focus on teaching and not so much on data collection and writing IEPs. My EFE teacher is a Special Education teacher and I have seen her provide scaffolded education that supported her special education students.