

What Is The Case Manager's Role?

(Often the Resource Teacher or L.A. Teacher)

Sometimes case managers are not clear about how they can best help students with severe multiple disabilities and their teams. The following are some guidelines for student's teachers.

- **Teacher time to work one-on-one with the student.** Some resource teachers build in time to work with the student on a specific skill related task at least once a week. This provides valuable insight into the student's IEP objectives. Some resource teachers provide **relief for the classroom teacher** by taking the class, so that he/she can work one-on-one with the student as well.
- Create data collection sheets and **review data collection** for the student maintained by the assistant(s) around key areas such as choice making, yes/no questions, sign language used, comprehension questions asked and answered correctly, switch access reliability, etc.
- Help **plan modifications** for activities with the assistant and classroom teacher, particularly around upcoming classroom themes. The resource teacher is the special education specialist and the constant teacher over the years, for the student. Most resource teachers **meet with the classroom teacher and assistant(s)** bi-weekly to help plan modifications.
- Coordinate or arrange for an **inservice** to classmates and new classroom teachers each year through formal lessons. Invite therapists to teach peers how to interact meaningfully with the student with his/her skills and to understand communication through the personal dictionary.
- With the assistant(s), classroom teacher and therapists, **assess and report** on the student's progress on specific skills (IEP objectives). The resource teacher periodically checks with therapists to see that assistant(s) are following through on the prescribed activities as outlined in the IEP.
- **Write and update the IEP** with input from the entire team. Organize and coordinate IEP reviews including assessment of progress at least twice a year or according to the guidelines from your local school district.
- Act as **communication link** between all team members in relaying key information as needed in a timely manner. The case manager often helps to resolve any team communication challenges that arise with assistance from the principal if needed.