

# all Meeting ^ Students' Needs

- Cross Curricular Planning
- English as a Second Language
- Education for Exceptional Children



# **ALL MEETING ^ STUDENTS' NEEDS**

## **CROSS CURRICULAR PLANNING**

Health and physical education are essential to the entire school curriculum. Studies show that students who participate in physical activity each day exhibit improved memory, concentration, and communication, problem solving, and leadership abilities, which improve their learning in other subject areas. Such students also display more positive attitudes towards themselves, improved interpersonal behavior, and a willingness to meet and deal with the challenges of daily life. Because active learning is so important for all students, daily vigorous physical activity in elementary schools is strongly encouraged.

The development of skills and knowledge in the areas of health and physical education is related to learning in other subjects. When planning programs, teachers should emphasize such cross-curricular relationships by coordinating the teaching of related expectations. For example, in grade 5, students could describe the short- and long- term effects of alcohol (health and physical education), learn about its properties (science and technology), and represent in a graph the results of a survey of a select group of people with regard to its use and abuse (mathematics). At the conclusion of the unit, students could be asked to report orally or in writing (language arts) on the impact of alcohol on people's lives.

## **ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL)**

Health and physical education provides students with unique opportunities for fundamental language development and expression. It also minimizes language barriers by providing ESL students with opportunities to express themselves non-verbally in some activities through body movements. Adaptations to meet the needs of ESL students may emphasize visual learning to help them achieve the required expectations of the healthy living strand. Educators should provide learning opportunities that allow students to recognize and develop sensitivity to cultural differences as they relate to health and physical education.

## **EDUCATION FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN**

Note: Exceptional student, in this case, is a child who has a physical handicap. The handicap may be a short-term injury or a long-term physical disability.

Health and physical education provides exceptional students with opportunities to enhance their understanding of personal capabilities, challenges, and potential. Appropriate modifications can enhance their motor skills, motivate them to participate, improve their feelings of self worth, and provide them with physical and therapeutic benefits. Participation in health and physical education also gives exceptional students a unique opportunity to develop skills, knowledge, and attitudes that promote lifelong, healthy active living.

When including exceptional students in activities, it is important to understand any limitations they may have, as well as any corresponding needs they may have for adaptations and support.

Meeting the needs of exceptional students may involve

- Equipment adaptations
- Program adaptations
- Modified assessment and evaluation strategies

