

One Child at a Time Video Transcription

SPEAKER:

DIALOGUE:

(What is special education?)

Narration:

Students respond.

Male Student #1 (sunglasses)

Well, from an elementary kids' point of view, or junior high, it's the kids that come out, you know, when everyone else isn't out, and they walk down the hall by themselves, but they have other people that are caring for them.

Female Student #1 (white shirt)

Well, when I was going to school, special education was like, the short bus and special rooms, but things have changed now.

Female Student #2 (white hoodie)

Students with disabilities, hard to function, they're just different from the normal students.

Female Student #3 (zebra shirt)

I think of like the mentally challenged, working with disabled kids and stuff like that.

Male Student #2 (baseball cap)

They have several problems, attention deficit disorder, ADD.

Female Student # 4 (twin of Zebra shirt)

PE Classes or something, when they're in wheelchairs and trying to race against other disabled students.

(Why would someone become a special education teacher?)

Male Student #3 (backwards cap)

Being a special education teachers pretty much has to come from within. You just have to have the natural desire to wanna reach out.

Male Student #1 (sunglasses)

They seem to me like good-hearted people. They're: "If nobody else will do it, I'll do it"—that's what it seems like to me.

Female Student #2 (white hoodie)	They have to be a (unintelligible), you just can't decide you're gonna come to school and just be a special education teacher, you have to have the patience with the kids.
Male Student #5 (beard)	It's not just a job. You're dealing with kids and their future.
Male Student #2 (baseball cap)	You have to be a more patient and caring individual, so it takes a real special kind of person to be a special education teacher.
(Have you considered teaching as a career?)	
Interviewer:	Ever thought about becoming a school teacher?
Female Student #3 (zebra shirt)	Yes, actually, yes...
Interviewer:	Special education?
Female Student #4 (her twin)	Um... elementary, yeah.
Female Student #5 (in front of tree)	Never thought about it.
Female Student #1 (white shirt)	No, never thought about it. No, I was looking more at being a lawyer or something like that, so...
Male Student #6 (hat & bandanna)	Never. I think that's too hard. That's like becoming president.
Male Student #1 (sunglasses)	In my opinion, I wouldn't mind being a special education teacher. But you're not gonna find many people that'll say that.
(Why would someone <i>not</i> become a special education teacher?)	
Female Student #1 (white shirt)	Well, once again: money. (Laughs.) And the benefits. Definitely have to have the benefits going.
Female Student #3 (zebra shirt)	Well, a lot of people are in it for the money.
Female Student #4 (her twin)	IBM, Dell...

Female Student #3 (zebra shirt)	Anything like that, telemarketing, something to do with computers.
Female Student #2 (white hoodie)	You need money to survive, when you have your bills and these things, you need your money. But after a while when you work and get enough money, I think people need to look back and help out.
Female Student #6 (glasses)	They need to look for something that they love, that will be rewarding to them, that they'll end up being happier in the long run.
Male Student #2 (baseball cap)	I guess they're afraid that they wouldn't know how to handle certain situations, any they just fear what they don't understand, and I think they need to understand it a little bit better.
(What would it take for you to consider special education as a career?)	
Female Student #7 (English accent)	I mean, I don't know things about jobs, I don't know how much special educators get paid as compared to other teachers.
Female Student #5 (in front of tree)	Maybe if I knew a little bit more about it, just 'cause right now, all I know is that you help mentally retarded people and I think if I knew more about what tasks you do and stuff, it would help a lot.
Female Student #3 (zebra shirt)	I think knowledge is power, so definitely getting more information would help people realize what it is they're dealing with.
Male Student #2 (baseball cap)	I think if we could just promote more information about it, it would help society become more aware of different types of special education students, and I think more people would be interested in the field and learning what it takes to be a special education teacher.
Narrator:	We need more special education teachers; about thirty thousand more each year. But

filling this need is not easy, because teaching special education is not easy. It's not for everyone. But there is still a great deal of misunderstanding about the profession that may be keeping *you* from considering special education as a career.

(What is special education? The reality)

Narration:

Educators respond.

Female Educator #1

A lot of people think that special ed is just for mentally retarded children. That's so far from reality.

Female Educator #2

All kinds of children with different special needs. It can be anywhere from kids with severe disabilities, physically, mentally, but also children who need a little bit of help in certain areas.

Female Educator #3

I have mildly learning disabled children, all the way up to extremely autistic, so, I have had kids that are just learning how to read in special ed and get out of special ed, to children that are just learning how to survive.

(The job)

Female Educator #4

Basically, I want to reach children on a very personal level. I want to be able to be part of that overcoming their struggles and difficulties.

Female Educator #5

I'm always filling a bag of tricks. I'm always coming up with new things and new ways to present material and ideas and lessons to these students.

Female Educator #6

I pull off the glasses and I see people and students individually, instead of: here's how I'm teaching this *class* today. I teach them one on one.

Female Educator #7

I see myself as more of a guide and a coach. You know, a guide that shows students: here's what's possible. And a coach: my father's a coach, so maybe that's where I get that from. I'm standing on the sidelines, going, "You can do it! You can do it! Keep going!"

Male Educator #1

I believe that what would make a successful educator is a person who loves to learn. That feeling of "I love to learn" is what is conveyed to your students. And that is probably one of the most successful ways of teaching a student the excitement and the enthusiasm that *you* have as a teacher.

Female Educator #6

You wanna change the world. People that wanna change the world and wanna make a difference are people that need to go into teaching, but, if you really wanna make a difference, you go into special education.

(It's a good job)

Female Educator #8

There's such a shortage of special education teachers right now that you can pretty much pick the city, school district, even down to the school, sometimes, that you wanna work in.

Male Educator #1

When we look at entering education, and that's what we're entering—the field of education—it's not just teaching. And when you work your way through the field of education, in special education, you can become diagnosticians, you can become speech therapists, you can become special education directors. The field of education can bring you the financial rewards that you seek.

Female Educator #9

Actually, the money's not bad. From what I was making as a secretary, it's definitely twice the salary.

Male Educator #2

Most of the people that I [unintelligible], you're not gonna be rich anyway. And a lot of the rich people that I know are not happy. So, the thing for me is just to be happy. And so far, special education has made me happy.

Female Educator #10

Yes, teachers need to be paid more money. But this type of work is for people who really have a passion for it. We've already been in the job market in other jobs. This is after our college degree. We're here to make a difference because the jobs we had, or the careers we had before were not as inspiring or as stimulating as we'd like and that's why we became teachers.

(The need for diversity)

Male Educator #2

There's a lot of, I guess, black children who are in special education that should not be, and there's children who need a lot of help, so me being a black male—I can be a role model for young black children.

Male Educator #1

I definitely believe that because there is such an overrepresentation of males in special education that male instructors can be very beneficial.

Male Educator #2

That was probably the major factor—giving back. When I was younger, the community helped *me* a lot. There's nothing I could have done to give back to the community every day. So, that's why I decided to [unintelligible] special education.

(Why not?)

Interviewer:

Why special education?

Female Educator #6

Really, my first reaction would be, why not. It's demanding, it's creative, it's challenging.

Male Educator #2

Every morning I wake up, it feels good to know you're gonna go help someone out. It's not all about you, it's about someone helping others.

Female Educator #10

Being able to reach children one on one, really seeing growth when they come in and you're helping them.

Female Educator #6

Enabling people and enabling children to be anything and everything they wanna be, is huge.

Male Educator #2

You get a self-fulfillment from helping children out. You just see them struggle, and as a person who's struggled before in the past, helping those children out gives me self-fulfillment.

Male Educator #1

I like the opportunity to work with students that, because of reasons not their own, they have certain limitations—to be able to empower those individuals with the ability to achieve, I just think it's fantastic.

Narration:

Several scenes of special education teachers working with students.

Narrator:

We hope this video has provided you with insight into what it takes to be a special educator. There *is* a real need for special education teachers, but as you can see, it does take a special person. If you feel that you may have interest in this field, talk to a special educator. Visit a special education classroom. Volunteer. Look into it. You too may want to save the world—one child at a time.

transcribed
1/13/2008