Learning Activities: Motor Disabilities (Spina Bifida and Muscular Dystrophy)

Case Study & Service-Plan Workshop

Objectives Identify developmental and medical implications of SB/MD.

- Propose appropriate therapeutic and educational supports.

- Apply family-centered early intervention principles.

Steps

1. Review SB/MD developmental & medical characteristics.

2. Small groups receive a vignette (different severity levels & family contexts).

3. Groups complete the planning template:

   o Child strengths/needs

   o Family priorities and cultural considerations

   o Recommended EI/ECSE services

   o Routine-based strategies

   o Coordination plan among service providers

4. Groups present plans.

5. Class reflection on challenges, equity considerations, and family voice.

Assessment

Rubric: accuracy of supports, alignment with family priorities, and clarity of plan.

Medical Pathways Map: Understanding Etiology & Treatment

Objectives

- Explain etiology, clinical features, and progression for SB/MD.

- Distinguish treatments, surgeries, and therapies commonly involved in early childhood.

- Identify potential impacts on development and learning.

Steps

1. Instructor divides class into two groups: **SB team** and **MD team**.

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2. Each team researches:

   o Etiology

   o Diagnostic process

   o Medical + surgical treatments

   o Therapies (PT, OT, assistive devices)

   o Possible complications that affect EI

3. Teams create a **visual pathway map**—from diagnosis → early medical care → early developmental supports.

4. Gallery walk: teams present their maps.

Assessment

Map accuracy + clarity, connections to developmental impact.

Assistive Technology (AT) Exploration Lab

Objectives

- Identify common AT used for infants/toddlers with SB/MD.

- Match AT tools to specific motor or functional needs.

- Explain how AT supports participation in natural environments.

Materials

- Images or samples of pediatric AT:

   o Supported seating

   o Standers

   o Orthotics

   o Braces

   o Wheelchairs

   o Adaptive toys

   o Switch-activated materials

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Steps

1. Stations are set up with AT examples (photos/videos if physical materials unavailable).

2. Students rotate through stations:

   - Identify the AT

   - Describe purpose

   - Describe which developmental need(s) it supports

   - Consider family routines where it fits

3. Students complete the AT Matching Chart.

4. Debrief: How AT facilitates inclusion and reduces barriers.

Assessment

Completed matching chart + discussion participation.

Family Experience Role-Play: Strength-Based Conversations

Objectives

- Practice communicating with families in a supportive, culturally responsive way.

- Use a strength-based lens to identify child/family priorities.

- Explore the emotional impact of receiving a diagnosis.

Steps

1. Instructor reviews the emotional landscape of SB/MD diagnosis for families.

2. Students pair up: one plays a service provider, one plays a parent.

3. Scenarios include:

   - New diagnosis

   - Preparing for services

   - Transition discussion

   - Talking about assistive devices

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4. Debrief:

   o What words felt supportive?

   o Where did bias appear?

   o How can we ensure family voice?

Assessment

Reflection paragraph + peer feedback on communication skills.

Environmental Scan: Barriers & Supports in Natural Settings

Objectives

- Identify environmental barriers and facilitators for children with motor impairments.

- Propose modifications and supports that promote participation.

- Understand the role of inclusion in EI/ECSE settings.

Steps

1. Students review images of typical environments (e.g., playroom, kitchen, playground).

2. For each image, students:

   o Identify **barriers** (e.g., inaccessible shelving, narrow pathways).

   o Identify **supports** (e.g., low seating, sensory materials).

   o List modifications needed for children with SB or MD

3. Groups create one "Environmental Accessibility Plan."

4. Class discussion on universal design & inclusive EI practice.

Assessment

Completed analysis + group presentation.