

WWW.THEA4IDEAPLACE.COM

A website to support the Eastern Region A4 project.



ASSESSING ACHIEVEMENT IN ALTERNATE AREAS
REACH EVERY STUDENT

ASSESSING ACHIEVEMENT
in alternate areas

The A4 Idea Place is a website devoted to sharing ideas and resources for meeting the needs of students not accessing the Ontario Curriculum.

A LOOK AROUND...

With over 500 pages, here are the major sections of this site...

Functional Math

Includes all 5 curriculum areas with emphasis on time and money.

Personal Life Management

Essential skills for students around time management, decision making, self advocacy and employment.

Social Skills

The focus here is on conversation skills, relationships, emotions, etiquette and cooperation.

Independent Living Skills

This focus is on kitchen and food skills as well as the skills related to home maintenance.

Community Skills

Transportation, community resource and shopping skills are broken down here.

Personal and Self Care

Toileting, dressing, eating/feeding and personal health and hygiene are explored in depth in this section.

Fine and Gross Motor

A comprehensive inventory linked to reaching, sitting, standing, rotation, object manipulation, etc.

Functional Literacy Skills

These inventories support the areas of literacy that tend to be most problematic.

HOW THE WEBSITE WORKS

The Eastern Region developed a skills inventory for students not accessing the Ontario Curriculum. The A4 website takes the skills from this inventory, expands them, and provides lesson ideas, resources and assessment and evaluation ideas to support them. Everything from the A4 document is present on the website as well as so much more.

Users can browse through the categories to the right or search for the specific topic of interest. Frameworks are provided for student profiles, planning, and assessment and evaluation tools. A recent addition to the website is a link to a tool that

allows users to check off skills that they have selected for a given student and have these skills entered into a Planning and Assessment Chart at the click of a button.

Users are encouraged to share their own ideas, resources or tools by clicking the easy to use link in the upper left hand corner of the website.



IMPORTANT LINKS THROUGHOUT THE SITE

Click on the skills areas...

to print the inventories from the A4 document or see larger, more expanded lists of skills.

These extensive lists are very helpful in generating IEP expectations.



Click here
for
Lesson
Ideas

Click on the *Lesson Ideas* link...

to find ideas for lessons (not formal lesson plans) to support student's learning as they master these skills.

These lesson ideas are very helpful for classroom teachers who are trying to find creative ways to either modify subject matter or incorporate separate, student specific expectations into a lesson.

Click on the *Assessment and Evaluation* link...

to explore samples of rubrics, task analyses and SMART goals related to the skills. While most of these tools will require personalization and refinement by users, they provide a starting place for meaningful, accountable assessment and evaluation.



Click here for
resources

Click on the *Resources* link...

to find an extensive list of online and teacher created resources to support the skills and lesson ideas.

An effort has been made to ensure that all resources listed deal with Canadian content and are available to users free of charge.

Feedback from teachers is that while this website was originally developed with students with developmental disabilities in mind it has been helpful for students in:

- autism programs
- behaviour programs
- learning disabilities programs
- regular classrooms

...in both elementary and secondary settings.



Notes

Statistics

Usage

Almost 12000 people have visited the site in the last year. Google Analytics data show an increase of 432% in visits to the site since this time last year.

11,850 visits came from 133 countries/territories.

1,565 pages were viewed a total of 47,932 times. Of these, many of the hits were to pages pertaining to functional math, planning and assessment and personal hygiene.

Having this data allows for future additions to the site to focus on the areas which have shown to be of the greatest interest to users.



Next Steps

Newsletter/Updates page

As new information is added to the site users would be informed. Specific skill areas could be highlighted monthly/quarterly to better showcase what the site has to offer.

Continued Growth and Development

As users submit ideas and resources the site will continue to grow and encompass more topics and ideas.

A Professional Learning Community

Educators, professionals and parents will share ideas and resources to deepen and enrich the wealth of knowledge for helping students who are not accessing the Ontario Curriculum.



For More Information

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