Course title (English): Teaching languages to children with special educational needs

Course title (Hebrew): הוראת שפות לילדים עם צרכים חינוכיים מיוחדים

Course number: 132.1.0413

Course slot (semester/s, weekday/s, hours): Wednesday, 16:00-18:00

Lecturer: Dr. Elena Kazachiner

Lecturer’s conference hour and contact details:
Conference hour: Wednesday, 02.00-03.30 pm, e-mail: elena.kazachiner@gmail.com
tel. 055 989 68 52 (+972 55 989 68 52)

Course description & objectives:
Teaching languages to children with special educational needs introduces students to forming language and communication skills of children with special educational needs. The course has a double focus: 1) it emphasizes the language and speech difficulties which children with special educational needs have and their overcoming, and 2) aims to organize educational process of language teaching in the classroom where there are children with special educational needs. The course is divided into two parts. The first part addresses all the categories of children with special educational needs and their language and speech difficulties. The second part provides a glimpse into the forms, methods, tools and technologies of teaching a language in inclusive classroom. It provides evidence for the language lesson planning, illustrating the discussion of modern approaches with multiple examples from the most recent research. The goal of the course is to demonstrate the contribution of special education research to various subfields of general linguistic theory and practice.

Course requirements:
Passing the exam is obligatory for passing the course.

Course Assessment:
Homework – 20%
Quiz – 10%
Exam – 70%
Lesson 1. Introduction. Communicative activities of children with special educational needs and their forming


Reading

Part 1. Peculiarities of mastering language and speech skills by different categories of children with special educational needs

Lesson 2. Teaching Languages to Blind and Visually Impaired Students
Challenges of teaching language to the visually impaired. Classroom tasks to avoid or adapt for VI learners. Useful communication skills to teach VI Learners. Tools and aids for VI learners. Teaching the meaning of words to children with visual impairments. Tips for teaching language to VI learners. Basic skills for communication with children with visual impairments.

Reading
Lesson 3. Teaching Language to Hearing Impaired Learners
Challenges of teaching language to the hearing impaired. Useful communication skills to teach the hearing impaired. Assistive devices for the hearing impaired. Setting up an appropriate learning environment. Additional tips for teaching hearing impaired learners. Language activities for children with hearing loss of any age at any language level.

Reading

Lesson 4. Strategies for Teaching Language to Students with Intellectual Disabilities

Reading

Lesson 5. Supporting children with speech disorders in their learning language
Characteristics of speech or language impairments. Expressive language difficulties. Receptive language difficulties. What causes speech and language disorders. Some specific challenges that children with speech and language disorders may have in virtual settings and tips for improving their success. How do speech, language, and hearing disorders affect learning Why are speech and language skills so critical for literacy. Teaching and learning strategies. Modifying the physical environment. Modifying the task. Teaching resilience in children with speech and language disorders. How can speech-language pathology services help children with speech and language disorders.
Recommendations for teachers: Context/Setting, Curriculum and classroom activities, General Strategies, Strategies for Improving Semantics (meaning of words and word relationships), Strategies for Improving Syntax (rules of forming sentences), Strategies for Improving Articulation, Strategies for Improving Stuttering.

Reading


Lesson 6. Teaching language to children with autism spectrum disorder

Language development in autistic children. Language differences in children with ASD. The challenges of teaching languages to students with ASD. Benefits of learning foreign languages for neurodivergent students. Strategies for teachers dealing with students on the spectrum. How expanding language through play helps with ASD. Helping verbal children with ASD grow their language skills.

Reading


Lesson 7. Language development for children with Down syndrome


Reading

Lesson 8. Children with musculoskeletal disorders

Reading

Part 2. Organization of educational process of teaching language to children with special educational needs

Lesson 9. Language lesson planning and teaching languages in inclusive classroom

Reading
Lesson 10. Modern forms, methods, tools and techniques of presenting language and speech material to children with special educational needs in inclusive classroom


Informational and communicational technologies, programs and apps for children with special educational needs: text-to-speech, FM hearing, screen-reading, voice recognition etc. Tomatis, Forbrain methods.


Reading


