Table Topic (ECC Area) Social Skills with Scott Baltisberger

Lesson Ideas: What you might teach, and how you might teach it

If she's been at the same school since K, everyone makes lists of traits, and mark what people have and what people don't have. Talk individual similarities and differences (at their grade level). Race, gender, home life, eye color, wears glasses, doesn't wear glasses. Use bar graphs in the lesson.

Conflict resolution lesson: ask a question: if you have that particular trait, everyone has to get up and then find a chair. Whoever didn't find a chair has to ask the next question. (Teachers create questions.)

Every student in class gets up and talks about something unique about themselves.

Use lesson on explaining the visual impairment: practice using the language that goes along with them with the student. Removes the mystery for peers and adults. Who do you want to share this with and who don't you? What do you see and when?

Use lesson on the eye for the whole class. Use lesson on albinism for the whole class.

Have student do presentation on low vision devices or iPad, bring examples for classmates for them to play with-turn into a positive thing.

Use explicit instruction to talk about what other kids are doing for fun to connect kids to each other (example given for student who likes baby toys but is older).

List of snappy comebacks for when you get picked on, or humor when giving information. Not so dry.

Invite a peer or a few from class to a pizza lunch for social time to make sure peers are familiar. Do this over time. Have a peer come to speech or VI time or whatever to learn about what happens during pull-out.

Create list of questions you'd like to ask a peer, mentor, or parent.

Create list of parts of an activity that a person CAN do within an activity even if they can't do the main part (if you can't drive, you can contribute to gas $ to the driver).

Orientation and Mobility lesson for whole group with simulators.

Student presentation about what is needed from classmates, how they can help, if they have questions, how to answer questions, what they like to do/interests. Not just how student is different but how they are the same.
Use a blind animal to talk about blindness.

Start early with kids explaining their own VI because kids aren't as judgmental when they're younger. Better experience and then it can just be more natural when needed and when kids aren't as nice.

**Materials: Special materials you might use**

Use social activities/games from EVALs kit that incorporate classmates.

Have student research (Give direction if needed) and create a **PowerPoint** to talk about themselves with peers or at ARD, or just with teacher. Update as needs change which helps with self-reflection. This lets the student feel in control.

Make a notebook of examples of what works for the student to share with teacher. (The Good, the bad, the ugly)

List of famous people with albinism (or whatever condition).

IPad, more socially appropriate low vision device because everyone has one.

Simulation activities with vision simulators and multiple copies of low vision devices used.

Blind animal, animal with albinism.

**Resources: Resources you might pull from**

EVALs kit.

"Better Together" (Hagood) has a lot of good social activities.

Websites: NOAH, TSBVI, Perkins, Online support groups

YouTube videos with blonde-haired blind comedian.

Children's books about albinism/visual impairment

Mentor through NOAH, Same age peers with albinism in area to interact with electronically (FaceTime or something similar so they can see each other) or in person.

Older person with albinism as a role model.

School counselor: TVI consult/collaborate to help with understanding social/emotional development.

Family to share their values & culture, see how they interact around the disorders.