OER Textbook Review

For each category, assign 1-5 stars (with 5 being best) and provide written details. There’s also space at the end for general comments. Please fill out electronically, then print the final product and have it signed by your department chair. You can either drop the printed and signed copy off to me in the library or send it through the inter-campus mail.

Comprehensiveness = 2 Stars
The text covers all areas and ideas of the subject appropriately and provides an effective index and/or glossary.

The content presented in this text is not comprehensive. The book includes topics that are relevant but there are a myriad of strategies that have not been included in the text for it to count as being comprehensive. While some resources that are shared are reliable and relevant, some of the information and the references included are outdated. I can see using parts of the text as supplementary material, I would not recommend using the text as the primary text/resource for a class. In addition, the text did not include an index or a glossary making it difficult for the reader to browse through the contents.

Content Accuracy = 3 Stars
Content is accurate, error-free, and unbiased.

The content presented in the text is accurate and error-free, but some of the information is outdated. Special Education is an ever changing field and even though the information included is valid it needs to be updated.

Relevance/Longevity = 2 Stars
Content is up-to-date, but not in a way that will quickly make the text obsolete within a short period of time. The text is written and/or arranged in such a way that necessary updates will be relatively easy and straightforward to implement.

Some information included in the text falls under the classic research category and will continue to be relevant. However, there are sections in the text that should be updated. This is specifically true for chapters 2 and 5 that focus on technology.
Clarity = 4 Stars
The text is written in lucid, accessible prose, and provides adequate context for any jargon/technical terminology used.

The information is presented in a clear and concise manner. It is easy to read and follow. One highlight of the book is the use of personal examples. The examples allow the reader to make real world connections, which further leads to better understanding of concepts being presented.

Consistency = 3 Stars
The text is internally consistent in terms of terminology and framework.

The information presented in the text is consistent in terms of terminology and flow, however it lacks flow. The information presented in each chapter is relevant, but does not necessarily build on each other. For example, we move from a chapter on collaboration with families to the importance of AAC communication to Applied Behavior Analysis. While, all topics are connected the sequence in which they are presented is not ideal.

Modularity = 4 Stars
The text is easily and readily divisible into smaller reading sections that can be assigned at different points within the course (i.e., enormous blocks of text without subheadings should be avoided). The text should not be overly self-referential, and should be easily reorganized and realigned with various subunits of a course without presenting much disruption to the reader.

The editors did a great job in terms modularity. The text is easily and readily divisible into smaller reading sections. It can be easily reorganized to match content being covered in a course. As an instructor, I see myself using sections of the text to supplement other readings.

Organization/Structure/Flow = 2 Stars
The topics in the text are presented in a logical, clear fashion.

The topics covered in the text are relevant, but the chapters don’t necessarily follow a sequence or build on each other.

Interface = 4 Stars
The text is free of significant interface issues, including navigation problems, distortion of images/charts, and any other display features that may distract or confuse the reader.

The text was easy to navigate and the images/charts add to the information being presented. However, some links need to be updated as they are not working.
Grammatical Errors = 5 Stars
The text contains no grammatical errors.

There are no grammatical errors. However, it would be beneficial if APA format of writing was used throughout the text so that it can serve as a model for student who are required to use the format when writing papers.

Cultural Relevance = 5 Stars
The text is not culturally insensitive or offensive in any way. It should make use of examples that are inclusive of a variety of races, ethnicities, and backgrounds.

The text is not culturally insensitive or offensive in any way. While the content of the text does not focus on culture, race, or ethnicity, it does focus on diversity based on abilities. The authors do an excellent job keeping all biases aside and focus on providing a myriad of strategies that special educators can use to promote inclusion.

General Comments

The text is grounded in theory and includes reference to classic research in special education. The authors do a great job providing an overview of evidence based instructional strategies that have been found to be successful when working with students identified with autism and other developmental disabilities. The content focuses on important skills like collaborating with families, person centered planning, UDL, AAC communication, use of technology, and content acquisition podcasts. All of these form a core of a special educators repertoire of skills. However, there are some sections, that need to be updated.

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I have read the above review and shared it with the department.

_____________________________________                                            __________________________
Department Chair                                                                                          Date

_____________________________________                                            ___________________________
Reviewer                                                                                                    Date