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Walker, Zachary M.; Hunt, Jessica H.

Social skill development through math.

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Summary: According to the U.S. Department of Education, 90% of the future jobs in the United States will require a college degree, and many of these jobs will be in the service industry (Spellings 2006). Service jobs that require people skills may be more difficult for adults with disabilities. Although many students with disabilities included in general education classrooms are high functioning intellectually, anecdotal evidence suggests that social skill deficits may prevent them from securing the well-paying positions that they may otherwise be qualified to hold (Price 2010). Mathematics is required in a majority of college curricula. Many of the foundational skills necessary for success in college-level mathematics begin in middle school, which is a crucial time for both mathematics content and social skill development. This article will provide basic ideas for incorporating into middle school math lessons both the content and the social skills needed to succeed in college coursework. (ERIC)

Classification: D33

Keywords: skill development; interpersonal competence; middle schools; secondary school mathematics; college preparation; advocacy; self determination; cooperation

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