

Strategies and Adaptations in an Arts Program for Adults with Atypical Communication

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The purpose of this study was to observe and implement strategies in an arts program for adults with atypical communication due to developmental and intellectual disabilities. The study was conducted in the field using an action research approach with triangulated methods of qualitative and quantitative data. While the research was administered in two different art programs with similar populations, the main site of the study was at SpArc Services located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The secondary site was at Center for Creative Works located in Wynnewood, Pennsylvania. Individual case studies conducted at SpArc Services allowed strategies to be implemented and documented in the art room, as well as determined how these strategies supported the participants' Individual Outcome Summary. Areas of art making were explored that included textiles, mixed-media drawing, and pop art. The data collected from both sites produced common trends that can be used and adapted in the art room.

Bio:

Christina Lukac is an artist and educator living in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She received a BFA and her teaching certification from Tyler School of Art in 2013 and is a recent graduate of the Masters in Art Education with an Emphasis in Special Populations program at Moore College of Art and Design. She currently teaches art at SpArc Services, a non-profit for adults with disabilities. In this environment, she encourages participants to explore their individual styles of art making. Her own artwork focuses on textiles with techniques that include dyeing, weaving, and alternative materials to manipulate fabric.