About the Author  iv
Acknowledgments  v
Purpose of the Book  vi

Part One: Introduction: Roles and Responsibilities

CHAPTER 1  What Do Special Education Teachers Do?  3
CHAPTER 2  Disability Classifications  5
CHAPTER 3  The Special Educator’s Responsibilities  9
CHAPTER 4  Roles in Special Education  13

Part Two: The Special Education Process

CHAPTER 5  Overview of the Special Education Process  23
CHAPTER 6  Identification of a Suspected Disability  25
CHAPTER 7  Assessment, Diagnosis, Classification, and Placement of a Child with a Suspected Disability  45
  Sources of Referral  45
  The Multidisciplinary Team (MDT)  45
  The Written Referral  47
  Obtaining Consent for Evaluation  50
  The Assessment  51
    Academic Evaluation
    Language Evaluation
    Psychological Evaluation
    Perceptual Evaluation
    Occupational Therapy Evaluation
    Nonstandardized Forms of Assessment
    Other Areas of Assessment
  Understanding a Child’s Behavior During Assessment  60
  The Educational Report  63
Part Three: The Special Educator’s Role in the Special Education Process

CHAPTER 8  Reporting Formal Assessment Results to Parents  81
CHAPTER 9  Participating in the Eligibility Committee  83
CHAPTER 10  Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)  87
CHAPTER 11  Alternate Testing Modifications  91
CHAPTER 12  The Special Educator’s Role in the Annual Review Process  95
CHAPTER 13  The Special Educator’s Role in the Triennial Evaluation  97
CHAPTER 14  The Special Educator’s Role in Transition Services  101
  What Are Transition Services?  101
  The Individualized Transitional Education Plan (ITEP)  102
  Transition Checklist  102
  Vocational Assessments  104
  Training and Work Options  105
  Travel Training  106
  Medical and Financial Options  107
    Medicaid
    Medicare
    Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
    Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)
    Food Stamps
CHAPTER 15  Assistive Technology and the Special Educator  109

Part Four: Working as a Special Education Teacher

CHAPTER 16  Getting Ready for School  119
CHAPTER 17  Curriculum Considerations for Special Educators  129
CHAPTER 18  Classroom Management Techniques for Children with Disabilities  139
## Part Five: What Special Educators Need to Know and Do About . . .

**CHAPTER 17**

Common Disorders Seen by Special Educators 155

**Developmental Disorders** 155
- Mental Retardation
- Autism
- Developmental Arithmetic Disorder
- Developmental Expressive Writing Disorder
- Developmental Reading Disorder
- Developmental Expressive Language Disorder

**Behavior Disorders** 167
- Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD)
- Conduct Disorder
- Oppositional Defiant Disorder
- Antisocial Personality Disorder

**Disorders of Childhood and Adolescence** 175
- Anorexia Nervosa
- Bulimia Nervosa
- Selective Mutism
- Tourette's Syndrome
- Functional Encopresis
- Functional Enuresis

**Anxiety and Mood Disorders** 183
- Separation Anxiety Disorder
- Avoidant Disorder of Childhood and Adolescence
- Overanxious Disorder
- Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD)
- Dysthymia
- Childhood Depression

**CHAPTER 20**

What Special Educators Need to Know About Medication 195

## Part Six: Dealing with Parents of Children with Disabilities

**CHAPTER 21**

Helping Parents Help Their Children with Homework 205

**CHAPTER 22**

Helping Parents Use Effective Discipline at Home 209

**CHAPTER 23**

Helping Parents Communicate Better with Their Children 213

**CHAPTER 24**

Helping Parents Improve Their Children's Self-Esteem 217

**CHAPTER 25**

What Parents Need to Know About Retention 221

**CHAPTER 26**

Helping Parents Improve Their Children's Study Skills 225
Contents

Part Seven: A Law Primer for Special Educators

CHAPTER 27 Basic Educational Law 231
CHAPTER 28 Understanding Eligibility Committees 233
CHAPTER 29 The Concept of Procedural Due Process 235
CHAPTER 30 The Concept of Least Restrictive Environment 237
CHAPTER 31 Parents’ Rights in the Special Education Process 241
CHAPTER 32 Mandated Reporting of Abuse and Neglect 243

Part Eight: Appendixes

APPENDIX A Sample Psychoeducational Reports 253
APPENDIX B Acronyms Used in Special Education 261
APPENDIX C Basic Legal Terminology 263
APPENDIX D Educational Terminology Associated with Special Education 265
APPENDIX E Psychological Terminology Associated with Special Education 271
APPENDIX F Medical Terminology Associated with Special Education 273
APPENDIX G Occupational Therapy Terminology 279
APPENDIX H Organizations Associated with Special Education 283
APPENDIX I Organizations on Transition and Vocational Skills 291
APPENDIX J Special Education Web Sites 297
APPENDIX K Sample IEP 299
APPENDIX L References and Suggested Reading 307