

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide consisting of two overlapping parallelograms. The front parallelogram is blue, and the back one is a light green. Both are tilted at an angle, with the blue one being more vertical and the green one being more horizontal.

# Learning from people with disabilities

By Connor Bettencourt and Nicholas Magnemi

# What is a disability?

- An observable or measurable characteristic that interferes with somebody's functioning
- Disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 are protected and are given the right amount of support and rights
- Ex: Autism, deafness, visual impairment, ADHD, ADD.



# Incorporation of disabled persons

- Till 1975 there was very little concern about disabled people, including of the exclusion of students with special needs
- Courts held up this standard too including a 1893 Massachusetts supreme court ruling children with “Mental Retardation” should be excluded from public schools and a 1919 Wisconsin supreme court ruling that when the child's presence is harmful to the interests of the school they may be excluded
- From there Special needs support was slowly introduced to schools and public areas





# Cultural Factor: Historical And Current Treatment in the United States

- People with disabilities have been a part of society, documented since the earliest of written records.
- Throughout history, persons with disabilities struggled, ignored, exiled, treated cruelly and were victims of discrimination.
  - Nomadic societies discriminated as disabled against those who couldn't do their fair share
- The 2000 census reported that 33 million adults with disabilities lived in the US. This amounts to 1 in 13 adults having challenges that interfere with working in traditional ways.
- Even with today's improvements in medicine, discrimination laws and education, these individuals continue to encounter discrimination



# Cultural Factors: Language Differences, Strengths and Challenges

- Language can exclude individuals with disabilities
- Person with disability not disabled person
- Abilities or strengths vs. disabilities or weaknesses





# Potential barriers in Learning-Teaching Relationships With dominant-Culture Teachers and schools

- Initially IDEA developed "mainstreaming" for special education students
- Mainstreaming: Poorly-conceived and contributed to the stigma of special education.
- Need fewer barriers to inclusion in learning,
- Inclusion must have cooperation of faculty, parents and staff

# Is Dyslexia a Learning Disability or a Learning Ability? | Gabi Renola

