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Playing to Their Strengths

How one educator proposes tailoring instruction for special-needs students to help them succeed in school and in life

- **Identify** students' special interests and aptitudes.
- **Build** lessons around students' preferred subjects and abilities.
- **Modify** setting and teaching strategies for students' learning styles.
- **Enlist** a team of specialists and peers to support academic and social development.
- **Use** technology to bridge gaps in perception, language and comprehension.
- **Provide** positive role models.
- **Suggest** suitable careers.

Source: Thomas Armstrong, "Neurodiversity in the Classroom"

The Wall Street Journal

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"We were looking for what they did well and where they could be strong, not what they didn't do well and how we were going to teach them to do it— huge difference," says Ms. Schall, whose study included all but the most severely impaired students.

In the Zone

Entrepreneur Thorkil Sonne, who has a son with autism, believes at least 5% of all tasks in any business are suited to employees with the skills that those with autism typically bring to the table.

At Specialisterne, the Danish information-technology company he founded, people with autism are hired and trained to work as software testers, programmers and the like. In addition to learning specific job skills. they

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