

MN Regions 5&7 DCD CoP Resource Information

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Academic Activities/Apps/Devices

1. **Boom Cards**—[Boom Cards](#) are part of an online platform that provide interactive activities for students around many different skills. They are built on the Boom Learning Platform and your students can access them from home or school.” There is a free version of Boom Cards available as well as a paid version.
2. **Flipgrid**—[Flipgrid](#) “is a simple, free, and accessible video discussion experience for PreK to PhD educators, learners, and families. Create a topic and engage your community...together!”
3. **Jamboard from Google**—“Jamboard is G Suite's digital whiteboard that offers a rich collaborative experience for teams and classrooms.”

“Jamboard is one smart display. Quickly pull in images from a Google search, save work to the cloud automatically, use the easy-to-read handwriting and shape recognition tool, and draw with a stylus but erase with your finger— just like a whiteboard.

4. **Tasks Galore**—“*Tasks Galore for the Real World* is a valuable tool for preparing your older elementary students, adolescents, and adults for independence in the home, school, community, or workplace. The Introduction Section describes a process for developing and teaching functional goals. Forty-three colorful photo pages present task ideas in these categories:
 - Domestic Skills
 - Vocational Skills
 - Independent Living Skills
 - Job Sites & School Transition Ideas”

[Tasks Galore](#)

Assessment: Functional Skills

1. **FACTER**—The *Functional Assessment and Curriculum for Teaching Everyday Routines* (FACTER) is used to assess and teach students with moderate to severe disabilities (including ASD). The curriculum uses natural, daily routines within the inclusive school environment as the basis for assessment and instruction. The routines chosen include: academic, career, community, leisure living skills, and transition.

The student’s need for independence and participation determines the choice of routines and which ones are learned at a specific time. Related skills (skills that enhance the student’s ability to successfully engage in routines) include: expressive communication, receptive communication, functional academic skills, motor skills, problem solving, and teamwork/social skills. These skills are ordered from basic to most complex. The skills are determined to be emerging, beginning

Assessment: Functional Skills (cont'd.)

or traditional. Teachers then determine if the skill will be taught pre-routine (before the actual routine) or during the routine.

The Independence Measurement Scale measures are: 4—-independent or only minimal support; 3— visual, verbal or gestural prompt; 2—partial physical assistance; 1—full physical assistance; 0—does not complete with or without support; N—not applicable.

On completion of this phase, you are ready to plan and begin instruction of the high priority routines and related skills you selected.

Ordering [FACTER](#): Overview \$79.00; Elementary Level \$154.00; Secondary Level \$154.00.

Assessment: Literacy

1. **All Children Can Read: Literacy Checklist**—The National Consortium on Deaf-Blindness compiled an extensive [Literacy Checklist](#) for students that is applicable to the DCD classroom.
2. **Assessing Communication and Learning in Young Children Who are Deafblind**—By Charity Rowland (2009). This downloadable document contains information about [communication and learning](#) for children who have multiple needs. There are checklists for observation that allows the teacher or team to identify those subtle communication modes that allow for the student's learning.
3. **Basic Reading Inventory 12th Edition**—Jerry Johns. "[Basic Reading Inventory](#) (BRI) is an easy-to-use, individually administered informal reading assessment. This all-in-one package includes all of the tools needed for teachers to assess, interpret, and develop responsive reading instruction for their students. The manual includes all of the information needed for administering, scoring, and interpreting the BRI. A separate student book contains all of the word lists, passages, and early literacy assessments used by students." Covers skills K-12.
4. **Bridge Assessment**—"The Bridge is an early literacy and language assessment framework based on observation and portfolio development / analysis. Several documents including an experimental version of the Bridge Assessment Tool can be downloaded from [UNC](#).
5. **ERSI or Early Reading Screening Inventory**—A [one-on-one assessment](#) "designed to take a careful and detailed look at patterns of strength and weakness in an individual child" regarding literacy skills.
6. **Literacy Rubric**—Kathy Staugler shared a rubric for determining where a student is in terms of: early emerging literacy, transitional emerging literacy, or early conventional literacy. [Staugler](#)

Communication

1. **AAC Intervention**—Caroline Musselwhite’s AACIntervention.com is a resource for all things AAC. There are tips each month, product information resources, and a repository for presentation handouts (for a limited time after the event). There are also professional development opportunities.
2. **Boardmaker 7**—“Boardmaker 7 Editor is a powerful tool for creating unlimited symbol-supported education and communication materials for individuals with special needs. From printable communication boards and custom books, to interactive games and quizzes, there are endless options for creating engaging, relevant, and personalized materials and teacher resources in minutes.”
3. **Project Core**—This federal grant is an “implementation model aimed at helping teachers provide students with significant cognitive disabilities and complex communication needs with access to a flexible Universal Core vocabulary and evidence-based instruction to teach them to use core vocabulary via personal augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) systems.” The website includes free professional development models, resources to assist with implementation of the Universal Core in the classroom, and sets of communication formats for the Universal Core. [Project Core](#)

Curriculum Resources

1. **STAR Online Learning System**—MN Educators can sign up for their “NO COST” SOLS 2.0 account at: [MN SOLS Access](#)

DeafBlind

1. **Assistance in MN**
 - [MN DeafBlind Project](#)
 - [MN Low Incidence Projects – DeafBlind](#)
2. **Interveners**
 - Individuals with specialized training to work with children and youth who have combined hearing and vision loss (deafblindness) and work in a one-on-one relationship with children/youth who are deafblind.
 - Interveners support DeafBlind children and youth in schools as well as in the community.
 - Require specialized training to understand impact and learn strategies to support learners. [Their roles are different than typical paraprofessionals.](#)
 - [Intervener Information on the MN DeafBlind Project website](#)
3. **Intervener Videos**
 - [Intervener Student Relationship - Locker Routine](#)
 - [Intervener Bond](#)
 - [Hand-Over-Hand Simulation Ripping Paper](#)
 - [Hand-Under-Hand Simulation Ripping Paper](#)

Functional Skills

1. **Balancing Functional Academic Programming**—[Learning for All Alberta](#), Canada, presents information on functional skill development within daily programming.
2. **FACTER**—The *Functional Assessment and Curriculum for Teaching Everyday Routines* (FACTER) is used to assess and teach students with moderate to severe disabilities (including ASD). The curriculum uses natural, daily routines within the inclusive school environment as the basis for assessment and instruction. The routines chosen include: academic, career, community, leisure living skills, and transition.

The student's need for independence and participation determines the choice of routines and which ones are learned at a specific time. Related skills (skills that enhance the student's ability to successfully engage in routines) include: expressive communication, receptive communication, functional academic skills, motor skills, problem solving, and teamwork/social skills. These skills are ordered from basic to most complex. The skills are determined to be emerging, beginning or traditional. Teachers then determine if the skill will be taught pre-routine (before the actual routine) or during the routine.

The Independence Measurement Scale measures are: 4—-independent or only minimal support; 3— visual, verbal or gestural prompt; 2—partial physical assistance; 1—full physical assistance; 0—does not complete with or without support; N—not applicable. On completion of this phase, you are ready to plan and begin instruction of the high priority routines and related skills you selected.

Ordering [FACTER](#): Overview \$79.00; Elementary Level \$154.00; Secondary Level \$154.00.

3. **FISH**—The [Functional Independence Skills Handbook](#) (FISH)—2003—“is a resource used to determine a person's ability to perform certain functional activities of daily living. The goal of the program is an increase in personal independence in those with autism and other developmental disorders.” You may find it on the shelf at your local special education agency. \$83.00

The areas addressed in the skill charts (independent baseline, not applicable, independent follow up) are:

- Adaptive Behavior Skills (skills of daily living)
- Affective Skills
- Cognitive Skills
- Sensorimotor Skills
- Social Skills
- Speech and Language Skills
- Vocational Skills

Functional Skills (cont'd.)

4. **Functional Assessment & Curriculum for Teaching Students w/ Disabilities**—There are four manuals in this set from ProEd that spans the ages of infancy through young adult. The original four manuals have been revised (2008) and now also include the Assessing and Monitoring Progress of Functional Skills tool to help “teachers target skills for instruction and measure progress toward skill mastery.

Activities are designed for students to do at school and/or home with parents. Each unit has “specific goals, related references, suggested readings, and selected materials/resources.”

The volumes are:

- Volume I: Self-Care, Motor Skills, House Management, & Living Skills—4th Edition
- Volume II: Nonverbal Communication, Oral Communication, & Literacy Preparation—4th Edition
- Volume III: Functional Academics—3rd Edition
- Volume IV: Interpersonal, Competitive Job-Finding, & Leisure-Time Skills—2nd Edition.

Ordering [4 Functional Assessment & Curriculum Manual Set](#): \$188.00

5. **Functional Curriculum and Academic Standards-based Curriculum**—This [University of Kentucky PPT](#) defines traditional programming and programming related to Standards for students with cognitive disabilities.
6. **Functional Curriculum Resources Review**—The British Columbia Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE) sponsored a project to create a [grid of resources](#) for: general functional skills information, planning, life skills, self-advocacy, social skills, personal care, sexuality, transition, and academics (2009).
7. **Functional Skills Checklist**—[Functional Skills Checklist](#) was developed from the Paul Bunyan Education Cooperative DCD teachers then adapted into this format by Cambridge Isanti School District.
8. **Leisure Time and Recreational Skills**—Oregon and Wisconsin tool for determining programming based on: Performance Standard; Sample Alternate Performance Indicators; Sample Performance Tasks; and Instructional Tools for [recreation and leisure](#).
9. **Me! Lessons for Teaching Self-Awareness and Self-Advocacy**—Free lesson [packages](#) that can be downloaded: strengths and limitations, disability awareness, and interacting with others.

Functional Skills (cont'd.)

10. **Standards-Based Life Skills Curriculum**—[OCALI](#) developed a functional curriculum based on the Standards from general education. The areas presented are: Indicators from the Academic Standards for Children Birth to Age Five; Strategies; Suggested Materials and Resources; and Assessments.
11. **Syracuse Community-Referenced Curriculum Guide**—The Syracuse Community-Referenced Curriculum Guide for Students with Moderate and Severe Disabilities (1989) is still a valuable tool for DCD classroom teachers.

The curriculum addresses ages kindergarten through 21. The focus is on “directly preparing a student to function in the world. It examines the role of community living domains, functional academics, and embedded skills, and includes practical implementation strategies and indispensable information for preparing students whose learning needs go beyond the scope of traditional academic programs.”

Order [Syracuse Curriculum](#): \$69.95

Guardianship/Supported Decision Making

1. **Center for Excellence in Supported Decision Making**—The Center for Excellence in Supported Decision Making ([CESDM](#)) is experienced in working with complex situations. Our team works to balance protection with promoting the benefits of self-determination. Services are provided in the least restrictive manner possible, honoring the person's rights, values and lifestyle.
2. **Guide for Supported Decision Making**—This [guide](#) includes a multitude of resources for families and team members with respect to supported decision making.
3. **Supported Decision Making Brainstorming Guide**—The SDM Guide “can help people brainstorm ways that they are already using supported decision-making, and think about new ways supported decision-making could help the person with a disability learn to make her own safe, informed choices.”
4. **Stoplight Tool**—The document *Identifying Alternatives to Guardianship* known as the [Stoplight Tool](#) “was designed to assist with identifying a person’s ability to make decisions and manage key areas of life. It is intended to assist with exploring alternatives and less restrictive options to plenary or full guardianship.” The areas addressed are daily life and employment, healthy living, social and spirituality, safety and security, community living, and citizenship and advocacy.

Literacy

1. **Access to the General Curriculum in Reading and Literacy**—The document *Research-Based Practices for Creating Access to the General Curriculum in Reading and Literacy for Students with Significant Intellectual Disabilities* (2009) by Karen Erickson, Gretchen Hanser, Penelope Hatch, and Eric Sanders is a [downloadable PDF](#) that addresses the topics below as they apply to DCD:
 - Chapter 1: Introduction
 - Chapter 2: Issues in Literacy and Students with Significant Intellectual Disabilities
 - Chapter 3: National Reading Panel Report
 - Chapter 4: National Early Literacy Panel Report
 - Chapter 5: Review Methods
 - Chapter 6: Emergent Literacy
 - Chapter 7: Phonemic Awareness
 - Chapter 8: Phonics
 - Chapter 9: Vocabulary & Word Identification
 - Chapter 10: Comprehension
 - Chapter 11: Fluency
 - Chapter 12: Writing
 - Chapter 13: Comprehensive Instruction
2. **All Children Can Read**—This site is for individuals interested in beginning or [enhancing literacy instruction](#) for children with combined vision and hearing loss. Its content is also designed to improve literacy instruction for children with multiple disabilities and other complex learning challenges. Our contributors include State Deaf Blind Project staff as well as teachers who want to give back to the field and help more families play a role in educating children with complex learning challenges. The instructional techniques and tips provided on this site are evidence based practices for increasing literacy skills.
3. **Bitsboard**—[Bitsboard](#) is a game/flashcard/study app for iOS. Free. Level: All.
4. **Boardmaker Core First Learning**—“[Boardmaker Core First Learning](#) is a web-based program delivered through Boardmaker Online that helps your students learn the meaning, use, and placement of high-frequency core words on their AAC system. The instructional sequence includes a series of reading, writing, and language activities that support student learning. “To access Boardmaker Core First Learning select Curriculum. Here you will find Core First Learning and other Boardmaker Instructional Solutions.”
5. **BrainPOP**—The The English Words and Their Usage Units and Topics provides materials for learning based on Famous Authors & Books, Grammar, Study & Reading Skills, Writing, and Free movies. The topics within every unit are creative and allow for differentiation of learning. Subscription. Level: Middle-High School. [BrainPOP](#)
6. **Brainzy**—[Brainzy](#) math and reading materials engage students through games, songs, videos, and read-along stories. Subscription. Level: ages 3-8.

Literacy (continued)

7. **Center for Literacy and Disability Studies**—A resource and research center that focuses on “all individuals, regardless of their abilities or disabilities, have the right to an opportunity to learn to read and write in order to increase and enhance their educational opportunities, vocational success, communicative competence, self-empowerment capabilities, and independence.” Many resources online from the [University of North Carolina](#).
8. **Early Learning Literacy Skills Builder**—[ELSB](#) from Attainment is a reading curriculum with eight levels of five lessons. It is a multiyear curriculum designed for students who utilize alternative methods of communication. Product. Level: K-5.
9. **edHelper Reading**—[edHelper](#) has “worksheets and no prep teaching resources—not boring” is their slogan. Monthly materials, spelling words, reading comprehension, STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, mathematics), workbooks, critical thinking skills, morning work, puzzles, graphic organizers, leveled reading books, and more. Subscription. Level: Pre-K -6.
10. **Edmark Reading Program**—[Edmark](#) is an online and print curriculum for students learning to read. For purchase product. Level: Early Reading Skills.
11. **Education.com**—[Education.com](#) provides guided lessons in an interactive learning format with activities, games, guided lessons and worksheets. Subscription. Level: Pre-K -5th grade.
12. **Enchanted Learning**—[Enchanted Learning](#) “produces children’s educational web sites which are designed to capture the imagination while maximizing creativity, learning, and enjoyment.” Pages of the website are designed to address learning that is relevant and interesting. Printable books and materials are available for download. Subscription. Level: K-5.
13. **Epic**—[Epic](#) is a free digital library e-subscription for teachers. There are “25,000 books, learning videos, quizzes,” and more for the computer, tablets, and phones. Students can access books and learning videos that appeal to their interests. Level: Age 12 and under.
14. **Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System**—[The Benchmark Assessment System](#) (BAS) is used to determine independent and instructional reading levels with children’s books designed to measure literacy skills. Product. Level: Early Reading.
15. **Great Leaps**—[Great Leaps](#) is a reading assessment with fluency and comprehension packages for Levels: K-5.
16. **HelpKidzLearn**—The [HelpKidzLearn](#) subscription is a collection that allows “young children and those with learning difficulties to play online (iPad and Android). The software is split into five sections: Early Years, Games and Quizzes, Stories and Songs, Creative Play, and Find Out About.” The company is based in England and sends frequent update messages to subscribers about activities and products. Subscription. Level: All.

Literacy (continued)

17. **Innovation Configuration**—*Literacy Instruction for Students with Multiple and Severe Disabilities Who Use Augmentative / Alternative Communication* by Ann-Marie Orlando and Andrea Ruppert (2016).

The [document](#) contains ideas for increasing literacy and looking at literacy in your classroom program. The documents for use are in the Appendices. An example of one of the documents (Essential Components and Implementation Levels) follows:

	Level 0	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Rating
Instructions: Place an X under the appropriate variation implementation score for each course syllabus that meets the criteria level from 0 to 3. Score and rate each item separately.	There is no evidence that the component is included in the syllabus, or the syllabus only mentions the component.	Must contain at least one of the following: reading, test, lecture / presentation, discussion, modeling / demonstration, or quiz.	Must contain at least one item from Level 1, plus at least one of the following: observation, project / activity, case study, or lesson plan study.	Must contain at least one item from Level 1 as well as at least one item from level 2, plus at least one of the following: tutoring, small group student teaching, or whole group internship.	Rate each item as the number of the highest variation receiving an X under it.
1.0 Literacy Assessment and Adaptation					
2.0 Comprehension					
3.0 Word Recognition					
4.0 Self-Selected Reading					
5.0 Writing					

18. **Iowa Core English Language Arts Comprehensive Literacy Instruction for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities**—[Iowa's standards](#) were addressed for students in DCD classrooms in this resource.

19. **MEville to WEville Curriculum**—The [curriculum](#) has been updated and is “the first research-based K-12 literacy and communication curriculum specifically for special-ed students with significant disabilities.”

20. **News-2-You (N2Y)**—Each week, users of [N2Y](#) access an online weekly newspaper for four different reading levels. There are interactive pages online and offline and weekly activities based on a topic or theme that is timely. Subscription. Level: All.

Literacy (continued)

21. **Newsela**—News articles written and updated regularly to keep students informed while building reading and comprehension skills in context. The [Newsela](#) site includes quizzes, annotations, and writing prompts for the articles. Subscription. Level: All.
22. **PCI Reading Programs**—[PCI](#) Levels 1, 2, and 3 provide a program for teaching reading including a sight word program. Product. Level: Early Reading.
23. **Raz-Kids**—With [Raz-Kids](#) students can access over 400 e-books and e-quizzes with additional materials added monthly. The program keeps data on comprehension and provides individual and group reports for the teacher. Accessed on computers, tablets and phones. Subscription. Level: K-5.
24. **Reading Avenue**—“An accessible, all-inclusive, learn-to-read program for all students, [Reading Avenue](#) follows a path that builds foundational literacy skills through daily routine instruction. Reading Avenue includes:
 - 1,000 pre-made activities to teach reading, writing, letter & word sounds
 - 120 books to build comprehension
 - Integration with Boardmaker Student Center for school and home access
 - Printable lesson plans and communication boards for each unit“And best of all, Reading Avenue is FREE with any paid Boardmaker Online Subscription!”
25. **Reading A-Z**—[Reading A-Z](#) has “thousands of downloadable, projectable, printable teacher materials, covering all the skills necessary for effective reading instruction.” Materials are tied to the Common Core Standards and focus on comprehension through leveled lesson plans, decoding, guided reading, fluency, etc. Subscription. Level: K-Elementary.
26. **Reading Mastery**—[Reading Mastery](#) is a direct instruction basal reading program. The program includes many options. Product for purchase. Level: PreK-5.
27. **Reading Milestones**—[Reading Milestones](#) is a language-controlled curriculum for teaching reading. Product for purchase. Level: K-5
28. **Read Naturally**—[Read Naturally](#) is designed to build skills in fluency, phonics, comprehension, and vocabulary. A progress monitoring system is built in the online version. Product for purchase. Level: 1-8.
29. **Tar Heel Reader**—The [Tar Heel Reader](#), is “a collection of free, easy-to-read, and accessible books on a wide range of topics. Each book can be speech enabled and accessed using multiple interfaces, including touch screens, the IntelliKeys with custom overlays, and 1 to 3 switches.” You may download or post your own books.
30. **TumbleBooks**—Public and school libraries often have a subscription to [TumbleBooks](#). TumbleBooks are children’s ebooks. There are over 1100 titles for grades 1-6. The books are “animated, talking picture books, read-along chapter books, National Geographic videos, non-fiction books, playlists, as well as books in Spanish and French.”

Literacy (continued)

31. **Unique Learning System: A Complete Reading Program**—[Unique Learning System](#) has six grade bands of content and differentiation within those bands. It contains all components of a reading program.

4-Block Literacy

1. **Education World Resource List**—The [Education World](#) website has a section dedicated to 4-Block Literacy. They have collected resources in the four language arts areas to address: guided reading, self-selected reading, writing, and working with words. The links may change, so explore the site.
2. **Four-Blocks Literacy Framework**—[Four Blocks Literacy Framework](#) from [blocks4reading.com](#)
 - Lesson Plan Formats
 - Guided Reading Strategies
 - Reading Activities for Kids
 - Sight Words Kindergarten
 - First Grade Lessons
3. **Guided Reading: All About My Word Work Station/Daily 5**—Teacher talks about what teachers and students do during word work part of the daily rotation. Talks about what students are doing and what teacher is doing when students work independently or in another area of the classroom. [16:51 minute video](#)
4. **Guided Reading: How to Conduct a Word Work Lesson During a Guided Reading Group**—Actual lesson with teacher and students [7:40 minute video](#)
5. **Guided Reading: Activities that Engage and Excite**—The teacher talks about keeping activities fresh for students and teachers. [28:22 minute video](#)
6. **How to Run Literacy Centers (Part 1)**—Teacher explains how to work with a center rotation chart, how to set up the room, etc. to use literacy centers. YouTube [9:45 minute video](#)
7. **How to Run Literacy Centers (Part 2)**—Shows students working through rotations. Discusses task boxes, etc. YouTube [9:59 minute video](#)
8. **Interactive Word Walls**—Interactive word walls for struggling learners [15:29 minute video](#)
9. **K-12 Reader**—The [K12 Reader: Reading Instruction Resources](#) has some excellent examples of 4 Block Literacy as it happens in the classroom.
 - Balanced Literacy Program Components and Strategies
 - Materials/Worksheets on the Website for Spelling (Lower left side of webpage)
 - Materials/Worksheets on the Website for Reading Skills
 - Grammar
 - Vocabulary
 - Composition
10. **Literacy for All**—The [past webinars](#) from Alberta, Canada, are posted on this website.

4-Block Literacy (cont'd.)

11. ***Making the Most of Your Word Wall: Interactive Word Walls***—How to make word walls accessible for all learners. [17:49 minute video](#)
12. ***Musselwhite***—Caroline Musselwhite made multiple videos and learning guides a collaboration between the Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium and Alberta Education in Canada regarding 4 Block Literacy. Videos include:
 - [Good Literacy Instruction is Good for All Students](#) [2:08]
 - [Creating Opportunities for Students to Explore and Understand Text](#) [1:55]
 - [Symbols and Learning to Read](#) [2:40]
 - [Choosing Words for the Classroom Word Wall](#) [1:33]
 - [Importance of Repetition and Variety in Learning](#) [1:11]
 - [Importance of Building Background Knowledge](#) [2:39]
 - [Give both Reinforcement AND Informative Feedback](#) [2:17]
 - [Knowing the Difference between Teaching and Testing Questions](#) [1:52]
 - [The Art of Attributing Meaning to Student Attempts](#) [2:13]
 - [Engaging Older Students](#) [1:12]
 - [The Cost of Underestimating the Potential of Individual Students](#) [1:41]

Download all [Learning Guides](#).

13. ***Practical Wisdom***—Dr. Andy Johnson presents an overview of 4-Block Literacy. YouTube [7:46 minute video](#)
14. ***Teachers.net***—[Lesson plans](#) for 4 Block by grade level
15. ***Teachers Pay Teachers***—The website [teacherspayteachers.com](#) contains ideas and materials for the 4 Blocks that have been used in classrooms and students have enjoyed. Low prices.
16. ***University of Texas at Austin Resources***
 - [Sample schedules](#) for 4 Blocks for grades K-5
 - [Activities by component](#) of literacy for grades K-5
 - [Daily sample lessons/ activities](#) for grades K-5
 - Booklets on the five components of research-based reading instruction
 - a. [Beginning Reading Instruction](#)
 - b. [Comprehension Instruction](#)
 - c. [Guidelines for Examining Phonics and Word Recognition](#)
 - d. [Promoting Vocabulary Development](#)
 - e. [Research-Based Content Area Reading Instruction](#)
 - Observation Tool: [Reading Component Checklists](#)
 - Observation Tool: [Core Content Area/Tier 1](#)
 - a. An observation form to measure effectiveness of instruction for students

Mathematics

1. **Alberta Education Numeracy Videos**—The Province of Alberta, Canada, has created numeracy materials and references for teachers of students with multiple needs. [Numeracy Videos](#)
2. **Brainzy**—This subscription website offers sequential learning through: “65 math and reading lessons, concepts that build on each other, and skill mastery assessment.” The subscription includes a progress dashboard for monitoring progress. [Brainzy Math](#)
3. **Bridges in Mathematics**—“Bridges in Mathematics is a comprehensive Pre-Kindergarten through 5th grade curriculum that equips teachers to fully implement the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics in a manner that is rigorous, coherent, engaging, and accessible to all learners.” This curriculum is abstract but helpful for some students. This is a for-purchase product from [Math Learning Center](#).

The focus of the curriculum:

- understanding math concepts
- proficiency with key skills
- ability to solve complex and novel problems

Method:

- direct instruction
- structured investigation
- open exploration

Materials:

- manipulatives
- visuals
- work pages

4. **Common Core Sheets**—Free math worksheets. The worksheets are easy to score and each has a scoring rubric built in at the bottom of the worksheet. Worksheets to address multiple areas of math: addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, algebra, angles, areas & perimeter, balancing equations, bar graphs, box plots, capacity, converting forms, counting, decimals, division, drills, fact families, factors, fractions, grids, interactive sheets, lines, line graphs, line plots, mean-median-mode & range, measurement, money, negative numbers, order of operations, patterns & function machines, percent, pictographs, pie graphs, probability, properties, ratios, rounding, shapes, statistics, tally, tape diagrams, temperature, time, trigonometry, values & place value, weight, Venn Diagrams, and volume. [Common Core Sheets](#)
5. **Connecting Math Concepts**—This McGraw Hill program addresses K-8 skills through: Common Core aligned content, tracking the sequencing of skill building with concepts, and digital resources and activities.” Ideas are gradually introduced and concepts are connected through experience and direct instruction. Materials include student workbooks, text books, and teacher materials. [Connecting Math Concepts](#)

Mathematics (cont'd.)

6. **Dynamic Learning Maps Essential Elements for Mathematics (DLM)**—This website provides research-based core standard skills by grade for math grades kindergarten through high school level. [DLM Math](#)
7. **Do the Math®**--“Do the Math® provides flexible, classroom-tested instruction for building numerical reasoning and restoring confidence. We start where the math stopped making sense and give teachers hands-on strategies to build their understanding and confidence.”

Each module has a 30 half-hour lessons. The goal is to move students from “basic conceptual understanding to skills in addition and subtraction, multiplication, division, and fractions.” Includes formative assessment for every fifth lesson. Hands-on learning is emphasized. [Houghton Mifflin Harcourt](#).

8. **Equals Math**—“Equals is real math instruction for students with disabilities. Students using Equals math have shown significant gains in math skills. Support for teachers using Equals math is embedded in the lessons and provided by training and follow-up by the AbleNet Curriculum Team. Equals is a research-based curriculum. This is a for-purchase product from [AbleNet](#).
9. **Equals on Facebook**—“The [AbleNet Equals Math Community](#) is a positive place where Equals math users and anyone considering Equals Math curriculum can come to ask questions, learn how to effectively implement Equals in the classroom, and share their successes with the Equals community.” This Facebook group is a great place to learn more about Equals activities and strategies from other users.
10. **Explore Math**—This is Attainment’s “standards-based curriculum for functional math concepts for secondary students with age-appropriate examples.” Life themes are used to complete the materials and lessons can be pulled and used in the order desired. [Explore Math](#)
11. **IXL Learning Inc.**—This website provides lists of core standard skills by grade for math. [IXL Learning Inc. Math](#)
12. **Lakeshore Ohio Math Standard Alignment**—In 2017, Lakeshore materials were aligned to the Ohio Early Learning and Development Standards. The math area is found on pages 24-31 to assist educators in supporting the math learning of their young students. These are for-purchase products from [Lakeshore](#).
13. **Minnesota Math Standards**—The Minnesota Math Standards (2007) include the standards for math by progressions with benchmark-item difficulty. Knowing the grade-level standards makes IEP writing more appropriate. [MN Math Standards](#)
14. **My Math**—This math program is designed to be customized to the teacher’s teaching style and student needs. It is designed to accompany Redbird Mathematics, which is “adaptive instruction” in a digital format. [My Math](#)
15. **National Library of Virtual Manipulatives**—A matrix of ideas and virtual tools for grades Pre-K through 2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12 in the areas of number & operations, algebra, geometry, measurement, and data analysis & probability. [National Library of Virtual Manipulatives](#)

Mathematics (cont'd.)

16. **North Dakota Department of Public Instruction**—If you want a portfolio of math skills based on the math standards, this website will provide you with the forms and an easy format to follow in keeping record of what the student has learned, at what proficiency, and the date mastered. The levels for the “I can” statements are from kindergarten through grade 12 (based on the DLM Essential Elements). [Tools for Teachers Based on the Essential Elements](#).
17. **Number Worlds**—This curriculum focuses on key standards for pre-kindergarten through grade 12. The program uses placement tests and instructional materials to accelerate student progress. This is a for-purchase product from [McGraw Hill](#).
18. **Numeracy for All**—The [past webinars](#) from Alberta, Canada, are posted on this website.
19. **PCI Math**—Workbooks and manipulatives are available for many areas and levels of the math curriculum appropriate for DCD. These are for-purchase products from [Shop K-12](#).
20. **Pro-Ed Math Products**—Some of their functional math programs include: Counting Money: Books 1-5; Understanding Math Story Problems; Basic Math: Fractions, Decimals, and Percents; Basic Math: Measurement; Basic Math: Number Concepts; Basic Math: Number Operations, etc. [Pro-Ed Math](#)
21. **Real-World Math**—Pro-Ed’s (formerly PCI) Real-World Math provides reproducible materials for day-to-day life situations. The information includes: “how to adjust recipes, calculate nutrition information, figure sales tax and tips, manage schedules, plan travel, determine sale prices, handle banking transactions, manage budgets, and find the best deal.” Lesson plans, activities and assessments address: food, health and nutrition, travel, shopping, school and home. [Real-World Math](#)
22. **Remedia Math**—Real life Real life math workbooks for students in functional areas, such as: Department Store Math, Drive-Thru Menu Math, Market Math, Menu Math, and Practical Math. Each area has different levels. Remedia also has levels of basic operations and math processes in their workbook selection. This is a for-purchase product from [Remedia Publishers](#).
23. **Standards Based Math Instruction for Students with Intellectual Disabilities**—This PowerPoint by Karen Ross Brown and Ben Setterfield discusses the components of a strong math program for students with cognitive disabilities. The program they use is Equals. [Standards Based Math Instruction for Students with Intellectual Disabilities](#)
24. **TASH Podcast**—Jenny Root did a presentation at the 2015 TASH Annual Conference entitled *Beyond the Basics: Access to Mathematics Problem-Solving for Students with Severe Disability*. This 2016 podcast (17:48 minutes) addresses working with students in integrated settings using research-based practices in math. Project Solutions was instrumental in looking at math for students with significant disabilities from 1975-2005 and what can be done with general curriculum access. [Podcast on Math](#)

Mathematics (cont'd.)

25. **TouchMath**—Hands on math program using touch points on numbers to complete math operations. There are pre-K through upper grade materials available. The basic materials work well with pre-K through second grade. The upper grade kits contain units for addition and subtraction, skip counting, multiplication and division, mixed operations with whole numbers, fractions, decimals and percents, geometry measurement, data, time and money, and pre-algebra. [TouchMath](#)
26. **TransMath**—TransMath works best with SLD and/or higher level DCD populations. It does not utilize manipulatives. It is an evidence-based program for math intervention targeting middle and high school age students who “lack the foundational skills necessary for entry into algebra and/or who are two or more years below grade level in math.” This is a for-purchase product from [VoyagerSopris](#).
27. **VMath®**—The program uses:
 - “Foundational and prerequisite skills
 - “Conceptual development
 - “Problem solving
 - “Representational, abstract, and concrete models
 - “Inquiry-based lesson components
 - “Student collaboration
 - “Writing exercises
 - “Connections to real-world math.” [VMath](#)

Program Structure

1. **Developmental Progressions**—Regions 5 & 7 developed a scope and sequence for DCD students that is to be used over multiple years and teachers. [St Croix River Education District](#) finalized the draft.
2. **High-Leverage Practices in Special Education**—The [High-Leverage Practices in Special Education](#) “describes four interrelated areas of teacher practice and breaks down 22 practices that teachers should be taught and master. The text *High-Leverage Practices in Special Education* offers a roadmap for student success that will benefit teacher educators, administrators, policy makers, and teachers alike. *High-Leverage Practices in Special Education* is the final product of the HLP Writing Team, a collaborative effort between the Council for Exceptional Children and the CEEDAR Center.”

The four interrelated areas of teacher practice are:

1. Collaboration
2. Assessment
3. Social/Emotional/Behavioral Practices
4. Instruction

Program Structure (cont'd.)

The 22 High-Leverage Practices that fall under the interrelated areas above “are intended to address the most critical practices that every K-12 special education teacher should master.” The information applies to DCD classrooms and programs across the age range served.

3. **Quality Indicators: DCD**—The MN Regions 5 & 7 developed a list of [quality indicators](#) for DCD program and service evaluation. The information is in the form of area rubrics.
4. **Scope and Sequence**—This is the DCD Scope and Sequence document that we highly recommend each student have completed to document their progress. This should be used from the time a student is in Kindergarten. This document was developed by DCD teachers in [PBEC](#).

Relationship/Sexuality Education

1. **Family Life and Sexual Health Curriculum (FLASH)**—The [FLASH](#) lesson plans for Special Education have lessons, visuals, and PowerPoints geared toward relationships, dating, and communication. There are 28 lessons and 6 appendices in this free, downloadable curriculum.
2. **SAFE—Safety Awareness for Everyone**—[SAFE](#) is an awareness program featuring multiple brochures from the San Francisco Police Department that addresses:
 - Neighborhood watch
 - Personal safety
 - Home security
 - Business security
 - Child safety
 - Urban communities
 - Safe bikes
3. **Sexuality for All Abilities**—Katie Thun’s website [Sexuality for All Abilities](#) features videos, a blog and information for parents and educators to address sexuality, domestic violence, etc.
4. **3RS Curriculum: Rights, Respect, Responsibility**—The [3RS](#) is a K-12 downloadable sexuality curriculum in English and Spanish. The lesson materials are aligned with health standards.

Safety Online

1. **Common Sense**—[Common Sense](#) is a family oriented website that teachers and parents can use to investigate products in 3 areas: media, education, and community media.

Social Skills/Behavior

1. **Do2Learn**—[Do2Learn](#) “provides thousands of free pages with social skills and behavioral regulation activities and guidance, learning songs and games, communication cards, academic material, and transition guides for employment and life skills. In addition, Do2Learn offers premier products including View2do, JobTIPS, and books for purchase.
2. **Families Together**—[Families Together](#) is a website of information and free activities. There are social stories and visuals to help explain COVID-19, ideas for helping children wear masks, materials for teaching transition to adulthood through their free learning modules, a life skills section, and so much more.

The transition materials are extensive. There are also resources for teaching students with disabilities in academic and functional areas across age groups. Speech/language ideas are also a part of this site.

3. **Moving Toward Functional Social Competence**—The [student record grids](#) cover behavior in multiple settings for joint attention, greetings, play/leisure skills, self-regulation, conversations, perspective taking, social problem solving/critical thinking skills, friendships and life skills.
4. **Social Emotional Learning (SEL)**—The website offers a calming strategies toolbox of “powerful tools for building resilience and supporting well-being. Made for students, families, and educators!” Parents, students and educators all have sections with a wealth of ideas. Information is available by grade level. Also addressed are strategies for:
 - Calm Your Body
 - Calm Your Thoughts
 - Express Yourself
 - Change Your Space
 - Take Care of Yourself

The *Be Good People Curriculum* is included in the Educator section. Can be found on the [St Croix Ed District](#) website.

Transition

1. **Casey Life Skills**—Service providers can create free accounts for the [Casey Life Skills](#) assessments and materials. “Casey Life Skills (CLS) is a free tool that assesses the behaviors and competencies youth need to achieve their long term goals. It aims to set youth on their way toward developing healthy productive lives. Examples of the life skills CLS helps youth self-evaluate include:
 - Maintaining healthy relationships
 - Work and study habits
 - Planning and goal-setting
 - Using community resources
 - Daily living activities
 - Budgeting and paying bills

Transition (cont'd.)

- Computer literacy
 - Their permanent connections to caring adults.”
2. **CEC’s Life Centered Education**—“Research-based and developed by a CEC-led task force of leading transition professionals, the [LCE](#) curriculum is designed for students who have learning disabilities, mild intellectual disabilities, autism spectrum disorders, and students whose ability to live independently is in question. “LCE identifies three critical domains for adult living in the 21st century—daily living skills, self-determination and interpersonal skills, and employment skills.”

Price is based on an initial fee per teacher or group of teachers and students with a yearly renewal fee.

3. **ChoiceMaker Self-Determination Curriculum**—The [ChoiceMaker Curriculum](#) consists of 3 strands: choosing goals, expressing goals, and taking action. Each strand addresses education, employment and personal topics. Free download.
4. **Discovering Careers** (copyright 2018)—“[Discovering Careers, 9th Edition](#) introduces career exploration in conjunction with the 16 career clusters. College and career readiness activities covering writing, speaking, and listening are included, as well as Career Ready Practices.” Textbooks are \$46.64 each and there is a companion website. The units are:
 - Unit 1: Career Exploration
 - Unit 2: Career Readiness
 - Unit 3: Finding a Job
 - Unit 4: Growing toward Independence
 - Career Clusters Handbook
 - Math Skills Handbook
5. **Employment Resource Guide: Successfully Preparing Students with Disabilities for Competitive Integrated Employment**—A Minnesota Olmstead Plan product, this guide takes the team through steps in grades 9-12 to prepare a student for [competitive integrated employment](#).
6. **Hands-On Tasks**—[Work tasks](#) for students in the classroom. PDFs are downloadable for each of the task rubrics. Great resource for multiple ages.
7. **Links Curriculum 2.0**—“The [Links Curriculum](#) (Linking Assessment and Instruction for Independence) is an evidence-based, comprehensive, web-based curriculum to teach upper elementary, secondary, and post-secondary students with autism and other developmental disabilities to be independent across school, community and vocational routines.”
8. **Me! Curriculum**—Designed to teach self-awareness and self-advocacy [The Me!](#) is a downloadable curriculum of 10 units:
 - Me introductory information
 - Me additional resources
 - Unit 1: Getting Started
 - Unit 2: Learning About Special Education (how and why did I get here?)

Transition (cont'd.)

- Unit 3: Understanding My Individualized Education Program
 - Unit 4: Understanding My Rights and Responsibilities
 - Unit 5: Improving My Communication Skills
 - Unit 6: Increasing My Self-Awareness
 - Unit 7: Advocating for My Needs in High School
 - Unit 8: Advocating for My Needs After High School
 - Unit 9: Developing My Resources
 - Unit 10: Assessing My Progress & Portfolio”
9. **Minnesota Career Information System (MCIS)**—“The [Minnesota Career Information System](#) (MCIS) is an Internet-based system that combines a wealth of career, educational and labor market information into one comprehensive, easy-to-use exploration tool. With MCIS, students and clients can:
- Learn about over 520 occupations
 - Develop a personal portfolio and personal learning plan
 - Research colleges, universities, and career schools
 - Find scholarships and financial aid
 - Improve job search skills and create a resume
- “MCIS offers several subscription fee levels, based on the number of potential users at each site. MCIS is used by schools, colleges, libraries, Workforce Centers, and many community-based organizations. MCIS is updated annually to ensure that the information is current and accurate. An annual MCIS subscription includes:
- Unlimited access to the website
 - Free training via hands-on workshops held around the state
 - Free technical support
 - Listserv membership”
10. **My Classroom Economy**—“[My Classroom Economy](#) is a program that enables any educator to teach children financial responsibility through fun, experiential learning. “It’s a simple classroom economic system based on the idea that students need to earn school ‘dollars’ so that they can rent their own desks. By bringing real-world scenarios into the classroom, students see the impact of their decisions to save, spend, and budget. Everything you need to build a classroom economy is available on this site — for free. Thanks for visiting, and enjoy the program.”
11. **My Kids Bank**— “[MyKidsBank](#) artificial banks are used to assist in the education of personal money management. Each artificial online bank operates similar to a real online bank through a web browser on the internet. The person who signs up for a virtual bank has full control and becomes the banker. Parents find the service helpful for managing allowance for their children. Classroom teachers also use the service to assist in their classroom economy. Each bank can be configured for local country currency symbols and time zones.”

Transition (cont'd.)

12. **ONEder**—“[ONEder](#)’s Transition Curriculum is designed for students with mild to moderate disabilities, to help them prepare for life after high school.” Grades 7-12; content is written at about a 5th grade level. The materials use “standards-aligned tools they need to engage students with ready-made interactive activities and content drawn from research done by organizations such as the National Technical Assistance Center on Transition.” ONEder offers eight transition courses for purchase. Topics covered include:
 - Identifying Personal Strengths
 - Cultivating Communication Skills
 - Identifying and Overcoming Challenges
 - Developing Self-Determination
 - Interpersonal Skills
 - Building Self-Advocacy
 - Setting Personal Goals
 - Exploring Career Options
13. **Student-Directed Transition Planning**—“The eight [Student-Directed Transition Planning](#) (SDTP) lessons facilitate high school to adult life planning partnerships between students, their families, and educators. Educators use eight SDTP lessons to teach their students the knowledge needed to actively participate in their transition-focused IEP meetings.”
14. **Task Box Rubrics**—The website [Hot Ideas](#) sells Task Box materials. There are also downloadable PDF rubrics for multiple task boxes.
15. **T-Folio (Washington State)**—“[T-Folio](#) is a free transition portfolio tool for high school age youth with disabilities. It is designed to guide youth in exploring, identifying, and planning for their desired post-school goals. This tool represents a compilation of activities and products showcasing each youth’s ongoing transition process. It is their individual story of who they are, where they have been, and where they are headed after school.” The website is still under development, so information must be saved to the user’s computer. Materials (lessons, lesson guides, activities, etc.) and information align with IEP and Vocational Rehabilitation planning. Units so far:
 - Student Introduction
 - Unit 1: Job Exploration Groundwork
 - Unit 2: Postsecondary Employment and Education Options
 - Unit 3: Work-Based Learning Experiences
 - Unit 4: Workplace Readiness Training
 - Unit 5: Self-Advocacy
16. **Transition 2 Life (T2L)**—“[T2L](#) is a self-directed program providing high school students with the skills they need to transition into adulthood and includes the curriculum content you need to meet federal mandates. “The program is print-friendly, independent and self-paced. Teachers and parents have the option of using the program as a one year curriculum or as stand-alone units to meet your annual IEP transition goals over the three-year transition period.” Available through Teachers Pay Teachers website.