

- ✗ Every child is special – I don't want to be known as special for having a disability. Find out what my real gifts and talents are, that's what makes me special.
- ✗ Refusing to let my parents be part of the team. Parents are important in their children's education, even if their children don't have specific or additional support at school. If in doubt, please don't consult a medical book – ask my parents. Not all that is written about my disability is true for me.
- ✗ Doing a separate curriculum from my peers.
- ✗ Being told to colour eg a History picture when the rest of the class is actually learning about History. Colouring, especially in high school is NOT learning.
- ✗ Low expectations and incompetence presumed before I am able to demonstrate otherwise.
- ✗ Labels being put on me, which restricts me and my teachers.
- ✗ Being in a class where all the kids with disability have also been put, and all the kids who need additional help.
- ✗ Sitting at a table at the edge of the class so the aide can conveniently always sit next to me.
- ✗ Sitting at the edge of the row in the assembly, always next to the aide or teacher.



- ✗ Doing experiments only with the aide.
- ✗ Being put in a group of all the kids with disability to do activities (eg excursion) because then an aide can be assigned to my group.
- ✗ Being taken out of class to do separate work with those with learning needs.
- ✗ Only being involved with my peers for non-academic classes - eg art, music, sport.
- ✗ Being "disciplined" in an entirely inappropriate way – eg put in the "thinking" room when I don't have the capacity to understand I've done something wrong.
- ✗ My actions being overly scrutinised and always being the one getting in trouble as I was just doing what everyone else was but wasn't quick enough to stop or hide the evidence.
- ✗ Never being allowed to take risks even though my peers can.
- ✗ You may have already taught someone like me, someone with my diagnosis. But remember I am me – there is no one like me in this world, I am unique just like every other child you will be teaching this year.
- ✗ Don't fear me, get to know me, full inclusion is when everyone is accepted and feel that their teacher wants to teach them and get to know them and watch them grow during the school year.

CAN YOU THINK OF ANY MORE EXAMPLES?

