

ROLE PLAY ACTIVITIES

For youth groups

Role Plays

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Instructions

There are four role play sessions included here. Each role play itself should take about fifteen minutes long with room for discussion at the end. The IEP role play usually takes a bit longer than the others. You will need a total of ten players to run all these role plays at once.

Hand out the role play roles with stories to participating adults or youth and have them act out the scene. After the scene has played through to the end, allow the youth in the room to discuss what they have seen. (i.e. IEP role play: What went right with this meeting? What went wrong? What are your experiences with IEP meetings, etc..)

You can also run these role plays in a round robin with four different rooms set up with the role players and have four groups of youth rotating among the rooms, for fifteen minutes each.

COLLEGE ROLE PLAY

Student Role

You are very excited to be starting college. You have already met with the Office of Disability Services and they are granting you two accommodations for your classes. You have ADHD and a visual impairment. So, you are being allowed to sit in the front row so that you can see the board and also so that you can focus better. You are also being allowed to take your tests and exams in a separate room by yourself where it is very quiet. This will also help you focus and concentrate better.

On the first day of class, you go see your professor right before class starts. You tell the professor that you have a disability and therefore you will need to be seated in the front row and you will need to take your tests in a separate room where it is quiet. The professor looks at you funny and then tells you that he/she treats all students equally and that he/she is not about to give preferential treatment to anyone. The professor has made a seating chart and because your name starts with the letter Z, you are in the very back row. The professor tells you that he doesn't allow talking during tests, so he/she is sure it will be quiet enough for you to take tests right along with everyone else.

COLLEGE ROLE PLAY

Professor Role

You are a new professor at a local college. On the first day of the semester, right before class starts, a student approaches you and tells you that he/she has a disability and will need some accommodations. The student goes on to say that he/she will need to sit in the front row for the semester and will also be needing to take tests in a separate room where it is more quiet. You are nervous enough about this being your first day teaching and class is about to start. Plus, this student looks perfectly fine to you and you think he/she is just looking for preferential treatment.

When you did your student teaching, they told you never to give preferential treatment to any of your students. You don't want other students to think you are playing favorites. So, you tell this student that you are very sorry but you treat all your students equally. You have made a seating chart and because that student has a last name that starts with the letter Z they will have to sit in the back row and just deal with it. Also, you've never heard of people getting to take tests in a different room and you tell this student that he/she will have to take the test in the lecture hall with everyone else. You don't allow talking during tests, so you are sure it will be quiet enough.

IEP Role Play—Student

You are graduating from high school next year. You have a learning disability that makes it difficult for you to read and write. You are very good at math but you really love art class the most and you would like to go to college for an Art Degree. Your dream is to become a professional artist or maybe even a graphic designer. You are at your IEP meeting and would like everyone to listen to you and respect your goals for yourself.

IEP Role Play—Art Teacher

You are the student's art teacher. She has a real talent for art that she has shown in your art class through all the projects you have done the past two years. She has told you that she'd like to go to college to study Art. You also know about her learning disability and her difficulty with reading and writing. You have really enjoyed her in your class and think she has a lot of potential.

IEP Role Play—Transition Teacher

You are the student's transition teacher. You are the facilitator of this IEP meeting and have invited the student, her mother, and her art teacher, as you know she has excelled in Art and this teacher has many positive things to say about the student that her mother might like to hear. You also know that this student really excels in Mathematics and you think this would be the wisest choice for her to look at in college.

IEP Role Play—Parent

You are the student's mother. You really want your daughter to be happy and do what she wants to do and you have heard her talk about her interest in going on to college to study art. You don't think this is a very realistic goal as, even though she IS a good artist, she probably couldn't get a job doing this. You are not sure what she should study in college but are hoping that her teachers might have some insight. You would really like to see your daughter be happy and succeed and part of you thinks that this art thing should really just be a hobby.

JOB ROLE PLAY

Boss Role

You are the owner of a local movie theatre. You place an ad for a manager in the local paper. You spoke with several interested people on the phone and asked them to come in for an interview. Before you interview them, you are asking them to fill out an application. You are giving each applicant 10 minutes to fill the application out. It is only a 10 question application and in your mind, it could easily be done in 5 minutes.

You greet this applicant and give him/her an application and explain that he/she will have 10 minutes to complete the application. After 10 minutes passes, you go back to collect the application and you see that the candidate has only answered 5 of the 10 questions. The person tells you that he/she has a learning disability and needs more time to complete the application. You decide that it won't look good for your movie theatre to have a manager on staff that can't read. So, you throw the half-completed application in the trash and tell the applicant that you need someone qualified for this position and that you did not get where you are by employing people who can't read. The person continues to say something about their good qualifications, but you are now walking away. You feel sort of bad for what you said, so you turn around and tell them that you might have an opening for someone to clean the toilets after hours.

JOB ROLE PLAY

Job Seeker Role

You see a job in the paper for a manager position at a local movie theatre. The ad says that you have to be able to work nights and weekends and you have to be a "people person". You think this job would be a great fit because you are available almost all nights and weekends, plus you have been told throughout your life that you have great people skills. You call and schedule an interview.

When you arrive for your interview, you are given an application and told that you have 10 minutes to fill it out. You have a learning disability and you are able to fill out the application, it will just take you longer than 10 minutes. After 10 minutes the boss comes to collect your application, but you have only been able to answer half the questions so far. He/she is rudely asks why you did not complete the application and you try to explain that you have a learning disability and it takes you a little longer to fill this kind of stuff out. He throws your application in the trash and says that the manager position is for someone qualified. You try to explain that you are great with people and that you are available nights and weekends. The manager says that they aren't in the business of having managers who can't read and starts to walk away. He then turns around and says that they might have an opening for someone to clean bathrooms after hours.

CONFLICT ROLE PLAY
Youth Leadership Summit 2008

Person 1: Call your friend and ask if she wants to go to the movies on Saturday night. Then gets off phone and pretend to take another phone call. It is insert name here, a guy you really like, asking you out on a date Saturday night. You really want to go out with him and are afraid if you say 'no', he'll think you're not interested. You say yes. Then you call your friend back and tell her that you got invited out with name on Saturday and you'll have to cancel the movie you planned.

CONFLICT ROLE PLAY
Youth Leadership Summit 2008

Person 2: Your friend calls you and invites you to a movie on Saturday night. You are really excited to see this movie. You say yes. Then a little while later, she calls you and tells you that this boy she really likes has called her for a date and she's cancelling your movie plans. You are really angry. You can't believe that she would cancel your plans for some guy!