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## Book review

### **People with Disabilities who Challenge the System**

D.H. Lehr and F. Brown. Baltimore, MD: Brookes, 1996.

In recent years, professionals in both rehabilitation and special education have taken notice of the under-representation of individuals with severe disabilities in such programs as supported employment and supported living. In their book, *People with Disabilities who Challenge the System*, Lehr and Brown (1996) focus exclusively upon this population, providing a much needed resource for practitioners who provide services to individuals of all ages. It is a valuable contribution to the field and should often be revisited.

#### **General highlights**

The book *People With Disabilities Who Challenge The System* is broken into six sections, specifically on issues involving:

1. Young children
2. Challenges at school
3. Living within the community
4. Gaining and maintaining employment
5. Cultivating self-determination
6. Future directions for the many fields related to disabilities.

Each of the six sections contain up to four chapters written by prominent professionals within the fields of rehabilitation, special education, and early education.

The text contains functional suggestions to

overcome areas of difficulty typically encountered in the classroom and community by service providers.

#### **Specific areas of excellence**

Butterworth and Kiernan furnish an excellent discussion on legislation, systems, and services impacting the employment of individuals with disabilities.

Many practice strategies are presented in a chapter by Hughes and Rusch that focuses upon individuals with challenging behaviors in the workplace.

#### **Areas in which this publication could be enhanced**

The current edition of this text provides little attention on adult relationships, especially those of a sexual nature.

The inclusion of a chapter specifically discussing ways of augmenting the opportunities of individuals to participate within the community by utilizing programs already in existence, such as youth clubs, church groups, YMCA/YWCA organizations, would be of great benefit to this text.

#### **Common threads**

Though this text presents information on a variety of complicated topics ranging from early education to employment within the community, each chapter is concise and especially well-suited to non-academics and novices in the field.

By utilizing numerous authors from diverse

professional backgrounds, Lehr and Brown have created a text that presents topics related to disability within an interdisciplinary framework.

Issues throughout this text present individuals with disabilities in a progressive light that illuminates their dignity and abilities, rather than spotlighting only their areas of need.

**Recommended usefulness for rehabilitation professionals**

This publication would be useful for the professional development of both rehabilitation and special education personnel, as well as a resource

for the lay person, such as parents raising children with severe disabilities.

Lehr and Brown (1996) would also make an excellent text for an introductory course on severe disabilities at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

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