

Special needs teacher:

Basic information:

The profession of a special needs teacher is a specific in Bavaria.

School pedagogical justification for the use of special needs teachers:

- Attention for the single pupil and its personal learning behaviour
- Individualisation by Differentiation

Special needs teachers are deployed in elementary schools, as well as in so called "Hauptschulen" (the school that follows elementary school and is visited by those pupils who have more applied or practical capacities) and special needs schools.

The main duty of a special needs teacher is to disburden the class teacher by supporting pupils according to their personal needs concerning the curriculum. Most of the time, their work concerns catching up residues or momentary partial disturbances of performance. Thereby the pupils don't lose the connection to the curriculum.

As there are just a few pupils taught at one time (or in the best case even just one), the lessons are very specific to the needs of the children.

Children, who need to have this kind of special training, are not seldom frustrated and demotivated. Therefore special needs teachers have to show pedagogical competence and psychological empathy, to give them back the joy of learning.

Normally the special needs training takes place in the afternoon, after normal lessons have finished.

Fields of activities:

- Individualising support in German and Math as well as tuition in activity based training
- Support of pupils who don't speak German as native language (→ language problems often also leads to learning problems in other subjects → language training is essential) or have behaviour problems
- Help with preparation and execution of lessons
- Administration and support of workshops with the objective of pupils promotion

Special needs teachers have to keep a close contact to the pupils, their parents (respectively guardian) and especially the class teachers to achieve sustained success.

Education of special needs teachers:

To become a special needs teacher, you first have to acquire at least a median school graduation and you have to pass a qualification examination at a state department school. Furthermore you have to prove the sanitary adequacy for the job as a special needs teacher.

The education takes three years at the state department and ends with a diploma for the first public examination.

Central points of the education are basic knowledge in pedagogy, (school-)psychology and school pedagogy. Additionally there is didactical education in German, Math and German as second language to complete the professional training.

After these three years of pedagogical education follows a provisional teaching period. This period takes two years and ends with a qualifying test.