Learning Guide 5 | Providing “Just Enough” Support

This learning guide is designed for use by Professional Learning Communities, learning coaches and teacher leaders or as a self-paced study to enhance the use of natural supports to increase the engagement of students with significant disabilities with the school community.

Natural Supports: In Conversation with Dr. Erik Carter

This guide is intended to facilitate conversation

General synopsis
In this short video clip, Dr. Erik Carter discusses considering other forms of support before arranging individualized one-to-one adult-delivered support.

Key understandings
- Consider the student’s abilities and needs before deciding on a form of support.
- Consider whether assistive technology or some additional instruction might help the student to participate more actively and/or independently in class activities.
- For some situations, peer support can be more effective and more enjoyable for the student than adult support.

Questions for discussion
- What other types of supports could help students with significant disabilities participate more independently in school?
- What are some strategies for determining the “just right” amount of support for an individual student?
- What are the benefits of providing “just enough” support?

For more information
- For resources and training materials for mentoring, see: Alberta Mentoring Partnership website: http://www.albertamentors.ca/
- For examples of activities and materials related to natural supports, see: Natural Supports Project, University of Wisconsin-Madison http://www.waisman.wisc.edu/naturalsupports/resources.php

Acknowledgement:
This guide was developed through a collaboration between Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium, Alberta Education and Alberta Mentoring Partnership. It is freely provided in support of improved teaching and learning under the following Creative Commons licence. [CC BY-NC-SA]