Suggested Audiences and Uses for
One Child at a Time:

With High School Students:
• Career Clubs / Extracurricular Activities
• Peer Support Projects
• Teacher Education (Teacher Cadet) Programs
• Counselors’ offices

With Community College / Four Year College Students:
• Freshman Orientation
• Student Services Programs (Volunteer Opportunities)
• Career Placement Offices
• Career Counseling Offices
• Schools of Education
• Colleges of Arts and Sciences

With Service Organizations and Community Based Youth Organizations:
• Sororities and Fraternities
• Neighborhood recreational / educational centers
• Public Libraries
• Social Service Agencies

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The National Center to Improve the Recruitment and Retention of Qualified Personnel for Children with Disabilities (Personnel Improvement Center). A Cooperative Agreement, H325C080001, between the US Department of Education and the National Association of State Directors of Special Education.

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Leading discussions on issues relevant to this video...

One Child at a Time is designed to stimulate new ideas about:
• what special education is;
• who special education students are; and
• what types of individuals might find special education careers rewarding and satisfying and why.

In an effort to promote the kind of personal interaction and dialogue that should accompany the viewing of the video, the following suggestions are recommended for leaders to engage the viewing audience before and after the video is played.

Before playing the video...

Begin by asking participants if they know someone with a disability. Ask them to share what kinds of disabilities they have come in contact with and the impact on their own lives. Next, ask the group to share what they know about special education. Have them relate specific images or stories that represent special education to a partner in the group. Have a few volunteers report on that sharing.

Ask for a show of hands by those who have considered teaching or working with students with disabilities in another role, e.g., school psychologist, school nurse, counselor. Ask them to keep their hands up if they have ever considered teaching or working with students with disabilities. Now ask those who lowered their hands, “Why not”? Encourage students to volunteer their thoughts about what that would be like for them. Promote discussion across the group, with participants responding to one another openly. Encourage these shared perceptions to stimulate and support peers influencing one another’s thinking.

Now, tell the group that they are going to view a short film that was designed specifically to stimulate just this kind of discussion. Let them know that you would like to hear what they have to say about working with students with disabilities when the film is over.

After playing the video...

Ask participants if these kinds of issues have been talked about in their communities. If time permits, rerun each section of the black and white footage. Stop at the end of each section, allowing participants to discuss their beliefs about that particular issue of special education, i.e., who is in special education, how hard the job is, the need for diversity. Encourage discussion about the different careers, the over representation of minorities in special education classes, the stigma around putting students with disabilities in separate classes, and what it means to be behind in school versus having an identified disability and being included in regular classes. Lead participants to a better understanding of the challenges and rewards of special education careers, while also working to dispel many of the myths about special education and its worth in the lives of all students.

Concluding the session...

Thank the participants for coming and learning more about this exciting and rewarding way of giving back to their community by becoming a special educator. Let them know that there is a listing of all the personnel preparation programs in the nation that prepare special educators, as well as extensive literature on 19 different careers in the field of special education that can found at www.personnelcenter.org. Supplemental materials may also be downloaded from this website or ordered from the Personnel Improvement Center to facilitate discussion or provide additional information on career choices.