

**STEP-BY-STEP
Mental Retardation**

Objective

This activity is designed to allow students to experience the process of breaking a learning task into smaller steps, such as used in teaching a person with mental retardation a new task.

Materials

- Telephone (prop)
- Pencils
- Paper

Activity

1. Divide students into small groups (or keep as a class).
2. Instruct the class to pretend they are going to teach a person who has mental retardation how to call a friend—give students a hypothetical number to use.
3. Allow them to plan a step-by-step lesson.
4. Then, using the steps, have a student instruct another student, using the telephone prop.

Discussion

What was difficult about breaking down the task?

What would it be like to have to break down everyday tasks into smaller steps?

Explain to them that this is why it takes a person with mental retardation a longer time to learn new things.