Bill Porter Plan

**Understanding Cerebral Palsy**

I received an email from the building principal and the school psychologist this morning informing me that I will have a new student starting in my first grade classroom next month. His name is Bill Porter. Bill has Cerebral Palsy and will need a team of specialist to systematically address Bill’s educational accommodations. I will need to play a key role on this team in order to make Bill’s placement successful. My initial reaction was panic. How can I take on such a crucial role when I’m not even sure what Cerebral Palsy is and how it affects a person? Questions like these haunted me the rest of the day. The first thing I did at the end of the day was to do a Google search to help me understand what was ahead of me. The search led me to kidshealth.org. and this simplistic definition...Cerebral palsy is a condition that affects the brain and how it talks to the muscles.

As I continued to research, I quickly discovered that there are varying severities of CP and each case is unique to the individual. Therefore, each specialist working on Bill’s placement would soon become a valuable resource in developing my teaching methods. I also realized that it would be vital to provide disability awareness to the rest of the staff because Bill will be the first student with Cerebral Palsy to be placed in a regular education classroom in our district. In order to do so, I need to understand Bill’s diagnosis and the degree to which Bill is affected by the condition.