
Being updated to face any challenge

Webinar handout

By Sajani Somatunge

How can we address the barriers affecting students' learning and participation in learning opportunities? Here are three ways to do so, and some tips to help you achieve this.

1. Practice Universal Design of Instruction (UDI)

- Principle 1- equitable use
- Principle 2- flexibility in use
- Principle 3 - simple and intuitive
- Principal 4 - perceptible information- irregular texts, uneven spacing –barriers for some- ADHD /LD affecting comprehension
- Principal 5 - tolerance for error-additional resources/opportunities to practice/ circumlocution in vocabulary
- Principal 6 - low physical effort- physical arrangement enabling lip reading and all faces/light not flickering/humming
- Principal 7 - size and space for approach and use
- Principal 8 - community of learners- Heighten student interaction and small group work
- Principal 9 - instructional climate– a welcoming and inclusive classroom

2. Use a checklist for an inclusive practice

- Can all hear well?
- Can all physically enter and function?
- Can all participate in the learning opportunities and activities as they are designed?
- Are the rubrics /activities not complex/straight forward for all?
- Can all understand them easily/is the format consistent?

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- Are additional timings/resources/opportunities for practice arranged?
 - Can all see the partners/group members/ materials well?
 - Is the space enough for all to move freely?
 - Are all ready to accept their partners to interact and learn collaboratively?
 - Are all included in the activity/reached through the material?

3. Use principles from Universal Design for Learning (UDL)

- Create an accepting and supportive classroom climate
- Create class routines
- Alerts and previews to help learners anticipate and prepare for changes in activities, schedules, and novel events
- Limit length of work sessions
- Involve all participants in whole class discussions

Important tips

- Be flexible and adaptable – these are two basic skills of teachers for incorporating inclusive techniques
- Focus on designing instruction and assessment for a broad range of diverse learners
 - Use multi-sensory instruction strategies
 - Create and use accessible instructional materials
- Provide special educational services/ disability accommodations
- Use UDL and UDI
- Focus on students' attitudes towards a variety of instructional strategies - which ones are widely endorsed by learners?

A recording of Sajani's's webinar can be accessed here:

<https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/news-and-events/webinars/webinars-teachers/inclusion-classroom-mini-event>

Space to take notes while watching the webinar recording: