

Differentiation

Differentiating Instruction is an approach to teaching and learning in which teachers recognize, learn, and address the particular needs of each child. Teachers use varied approaches to curriculum, instruction, and assessment.

Differentiation Means:

- Knowing your children and starting where they are;
- Acknowledging what children already know and can do;
- Affirming that students have different learning needs, strengths, styles, interests, and preferences;
- Maintaining a commitment to curriculum standards and learning goals for all children;
- Meeting the needs of individual children and the group.

Steps in the Process:

1. Observe and build relationships with individual children.
2. Document their performance related to curriculum goals.
3. Analyze documentation to determine what each child knows and can do related to curriculum goals.
4. Summarize each child's strengths, needs, preferences, and interests.
5. Determine what the next steps are for each child related to curriculum areas and goals.
6. Plan how, when, and where to support each child throughout the daily routines and experiences to make progress toward their next steps.
7. Group children at similar ability levels together when planning strategies.
8. Implement the plans.
9. Reflect on what works and what does not work in order to be as effective as possible.

Additional ideas and steps to take: