

Guiding Principles for Differentiating Instruction

To meet the needs of students in a mixed-ability classroom, it is important for a teacher to...

- ❖ pre-assess students' readiness and plan instruction accordingly.
- ❖ know students' interests, abilities and needs and deliver instruction accordingly.
- ❖ assess students often so that instruction may be modified to keep students challenged just beyond their level of comfort.
- ❖ facilitate learning activities so that students may become independent learners.
- ❖ engage students in meaningful, respectful tasks as they are learning.
- ❖ allow students to explore their interests and to incorporate those interests into their learning activities.
- ❖ teach students the skills they need to pursue independent investigations based on their interests.
- ❖ extend and enrich curriculum based on students' learning styles, interests and abilities.
- ❖ have a "toolbox" of instructional strategies so that the appropriate strategy can be used at the appropriate time with one student, a small group, or the whole class.