



Connecting Practice and Research
in Mathematics Education

Professional Learning Guide

Differentiated Instruction

Differentiated Instruction

Differentiated instruction is based on the premise that, since students differ significantly in their interests, learning styles, abilities, and prior experiences, then teaching strategies, materials, and pace should vary accordingly.

**“...differentiation can show us how to teach the same standard to a range of learners by employing a variety of teaching and learning modes.”
(Tomlinson 2000)**

In your classroom, this means:

- supporting diverse learners by instructing in ways that recognize that:
 - students learn best when they are actively involved in and physically interactive with their environment;
 - students develop a deeper understanding when they are encouraged to construct their own knowledge;
 - students benefit from choice, both as a motivator and as a mechanism to ensure that they are working at an optimal level of understanding and development;
 - students need time and encouragement to reflect on and communicate their understanding;
 - students need considerable and varying amounts of time and experience to construct scientific and mathematical knowledge.

Considerations

Successful differentiated instruction facilitates all types of learners. As a teacher, aim at developing a combination of teaching strategies that are responsive to all students' needs.

You can do this by:

- using a variety of groupings to meet student needs;
- providing alternative instruction/assessment activities;
- challenging students at an appropriate level, in light of their readiness, interests, and learning profiles.

For more information, go to:

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/studentssuccess/lms/files/tips4rm/TIPS4RMDDevMathLit.pdf>
page 23 and 36–47

My Personal Reflection and Plan

I consciously differentiate instruction

occasionally

fairly often

at every opportunity

How many times in the past two weeks did I differentiate instruction?

What are two reasons I'm not differentiating instruction at every opportunity?

How can I begin or increase differentiating my instruction?

Other ideas and thoughts I have after hearing the comments of my peers:

Next Steps

Lesson from TIPS4RM that I will teach to focus on improving differentiating my instruction:

Lesson Goal:

I can differentiate instruction during the following parts of this lesson:

I will implement the following techniques in the lesson to differentiate instruction:

Differentiated Instruction Techniques	How Students Will Benefit
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• • •	

Other notes:

Lesson Debrief

I differentiated instruction by:

Evidence that the differentiated instructional techniques used benefitted my students is:

Upon reflection, I could have further differentiated instruction by:

Other ideas and thoughts I have after discussion with my peers: