

Differentiation Strategies

Jessica Kelley



Highlight Important Parts

- The teacher will color code the answer with the important parts of the paragraph that help the students answer that specific question.
- You can use this in reading, science, social studies, etc. to help the students see the sentences that relate to the question to help them answer.
- This really helps the students in the class I am mentoring in right now because some students have a hard time picking out the important parts in the paragraph.



Flashcard Reviews

- The students are required to make flashcards from the given review sheets for that subject's chapter, and they must be looked over by the teacher after they are finished.
- They will then use those cards to study for their test.
- This helps the students study and it helps them get more familiar with the information on the review sheets.
- This also helps them know what is going to be on the test instead of guessing of what they need to study.



Retake Tests

- All of the students are allowed to retake any test that they did not originally do good on.
- This is a very good thing to put in the IEP for each student because they all deserve a second chance and they might need to take it in a different environment.
- Retaking tests is something that my mentoring teacher puts on all of their IEPs because they 1) might need it in a different environment, 2) need extra time to study because they do not comprehend as much as other students, or 3) need extra assistance in the learning support classroom to help them complete the test.



Environment of the Test

- All students are permitted to take the tests in the learning support classroom.
- This allows the students to take the test in the environment of the learning support classroom.
 - *They are allowed to come in to the classroom while they are in a different class to take any test or quiz that they are given.*
- This is another thing that is on their IEPs, that if they are given a test they take it in the learning support classroom under specific circumstances (some children take it better in there and some do not).

Extra Test Time

- Every child is allowed to have extra time on any of their tests.
- They can come into the learning support room to take their tests during their time in the learning support classroom for their study hall.
 - *They will be put on a clipboard with their name on it, and when they come in they will be able to finish their test.*
- This is something Ms. Micsky allows her students to do, which is in their IEPs, because we can assist them on their test.
 - *Like read the test to them orally.*

Testing Aide

- The students will be able to have a teacher or aide help them with the test.
- There are different things that you could do to differentiate the test for the students such as:
 - *Take away one of the multiple choice answers.*
 - *Give them 3 terms that could match up to one definition.*
 - *Tell them which part of an article or a couple paragraphs to look at a specific part.*
- During a test that the student is taking in the learning support classroom Ms. Micsky has in their IEP that we can assist them; which means read the test to them, eliminate $\frac{1}{4}$ multiple choice questions, and give them choices for vocabulary definitions and words.



Extra Time on Assignments

- Each child is permitted to have extra time on their assignments.
- There is one stipulation: the child must hand it to the learning support teacher to check and then turn in for them.
- This is something on the IEPs of the learning support students' because some need extra time on their school work because of their disability and the work load piling up from all of their classes.



Teacher Testing Help

- There will be a teacher from the subject area that is a learning support teacher specifically for that subject in the room to grade your tests.
- The teacher will then check the tests that each student has finished and put a dot next to the ones they need to fix.
- The students will then fix them, and if they need help that teacher will guide them in the right direction but will not give them the answer.
- This is something I see once a week in the class that I mentor in, just so the students in there can get help on their math tests and learn to correct themselves when they have errors.



Online Labs

- The students can participate in online math labs or even science labs instead of doing them in the classroom.
- They have multiple steps and will guide you through answering the questions on the worksheet that goes along with the lab.
- You will have to click through each of the steps to finish the lab successfully.
- This is something that I see at mentoring also because sometimes students have not finished them yet and have to do it in their learning support study hall.
- It is very interesting and I think it is very useful because it goes step by step and only touches on the important parts of the lab.



Skill Labs

- These are math lessons on the computer that the student can get online and do to help them with their math skills.
- They will have to complete a certain amount of tasks/lessons during a specific period of time that is assigned by the teacher.
- They can be assigned specific lessons, but they can also pick the lesson that they want to complete.
- The students in the class that I mentor in get to pick their lessons that they complete on the skill labs, but I think that they pick them because they do not want to fail on the other ones.
- I think it would be more effective if we picked the lessons for them, so they worked on those lessons and get better at them with the help in the learning support classroom.



Descriptive Word Bank

- The students are writing down information about a specific topic and need to find three descriptive words that go along with that topic.
- The word bank will have synonyms to words that they already know, and are very capable of using in their writing.
- This word bank will help them learn more vocabulary words and overall extend their learning of vocabulary.
- This is something that Mrs. Kauffman used with the students when she was student teaching in Ms. Micsky's classroom, and the students really had to think to find the connections (which helped them overall with extending their knowledge of vocabulary).



Graphic Organizers

- There are multiple different designs of graphic organizers to help the students organize their thoughts for a writing assignment.
- These organizers can help map out their thoughts.
- You can make a graphic organizer, print it out, and give it to the student to help them organize their thoughts and assignments.
- Mrs. Kauffman and other teachers made graphic organizers for the students to organize their thoughts on the paper, so all they had to do was copy that down for the final copy of the paper.



Peer-Learning

- If somebody is having trouble with an assignment and needs help, and a student in the classroom is capable of helping that student then they can help them with their homework.
- By having students help other students they usually learn a lot more in most cases, because it is coming from one of their friends.
- They can study with them, help them with math homework, or even help them with science homework when it comes to peer learning.
- In the class I mentor in a lot of the time this one student helps his friends with their homework, and it helps the student a lot because the information is coming from his friend. (gains their interest)



Let Students Pick

- The students can pick their own book, article, or topic to write about in certain cases.
- By having the students pick their own you already know that they are interested in it, therefore you can assume that they will be more in depth with this assignment.
- The students also love to pick their own books, articles, and topics because they know it won't just be the same old boring stuff that they have been told to read.
- The students in the class I mentor in get to pick their own books to do book reports and own topics to research for papers, which gains interest!



Cubes For Math

- When counting at a young age the students I have seen used cubes that connect to each other.
- When you are adding two numbers or subtracting numbers from one another you can increase or decrease the amount of cubes in your hand.
- By letting a student with a disability use the cubes during a test or while they are doing a homework assignment could really help them find the answer to the equation.
- This also adds a visual for the student to see instead of trying to add it in their head or just on paper. (which is much more interesting)

