

**NSW Department of Education** 

# How to Start Differentiating Your Teaching Based on Student Learning Needs

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# Acknowledgement of Country

We strive to ensure every Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander learner in NSW achieves their potential through education.





Differentiation is the process of tailoring learning experiences to address each student's individual strengths, needs and interests.





#### To differentiate effectively you must:

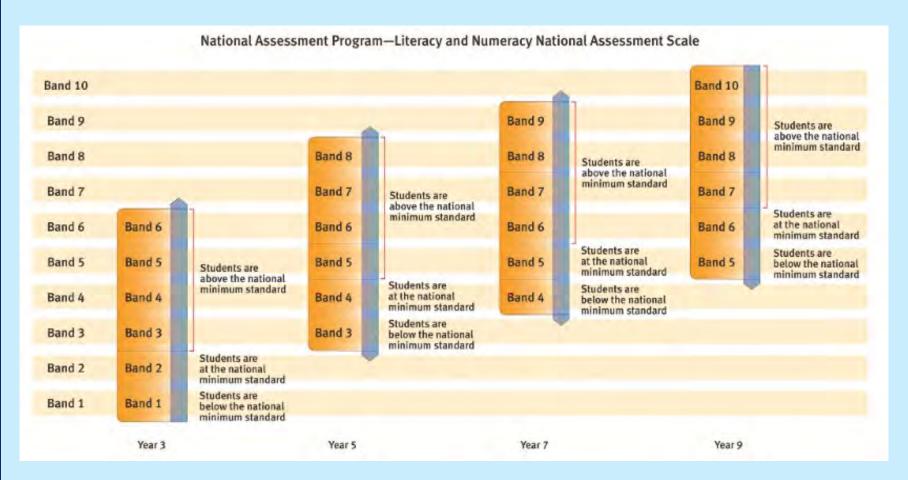
- Understand each student's learning strengths, preferences and challenges
- 1. Get to know each student's interests
- Determine each student's readiness for a particular concept, skill or task
- 1. Use flexible grouping strategies
- 1. Embed differentiation in assessment strategies



#### **Sources of Data**

- NAPLAN
- Best Start/Transition to Year 7 Assessment
- Check In assessment data
- NCCD on Students with a Disability
- Individual Education Programs
- Personal Learning Programs
- Learning Adjustment Registers
- Literacy and Numeracy Learning Progressions
- Student Profiles
- Pre-testing and questioning
- Observation







#### **NAPLAN Data**









#### Learning Adjustments / Accommodations Register



Name:

Year 9 - 2023

Subject:

class:

Teacher:

☑ Evidence of adjustments required in the NCCD Evidence folder (1 piece of evidence per

term) EXTENSIVE-SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL

#### Overview

- · Diagnosis: Autism, Generalised Anxiety
- equires specific routines: instructions and time limits, life can be easily distracted and needs to be seated away from visual and auditory distractions. Avoid direct confrontations and ultimatums as these trigger mell downs and poor choices.

Adjustments made in your subject:  Tick as appropriate across T.14.	0	-	over the		off that notice		
Teaching programs should record all adjustments made Add any other adjustments made in space provided below		Tì	172	13	T4		
Curriculum Modifications							
Use rufe skills mitcomes – Sign Life Skills registration							
Review SCOUT data - NAPLAN results. Adjust lesson content to student's ability level	1						
Adjust all assessment tasks and tests	100	-					
Provide extra time for completion of assessment tasks and tests	1						
Demonstrate using step by step instructions, break down tasks, model process, show a visual of the result expected.					1		
Explicitly reach how to construct written responses eq. unpack question, scalifold paragraph construction using TEESL.	1			П	74		
Assist student comprehension of abstract concepts by companing to prior understandings, concrete examples, student's personal experiences, use of Super Six Strategies.					1,7		
Use group work / poor based learning strategies		-		-			
Classroom Accommodations							
Seat near teacher /seat by self	1		-	-			
Assign studient to low distraction area	1						
Seat near positive peer models	1						
Use time out	1						
Stood near student when giving instructions	-			-	1		
Note taking strategies							
Provide student with a means to record lesson (provide stationary)		1		-			
Arrange for pete taker/ photosppy another student's lesson notes							
Give student copy of lesson nates	-						

Tyck as appropriate across \$1.4.			000	MARKET A	
- The state of the		from Land-contro			
Teaching programs should record all adjustments made.		T1	12	13	TA
Add any other adjustments made in space prowood below.		1.4	12	13	115
Presentation of Lesson				100	Н
Adjust workload, resiste assignments, or give adjusted assignments	100		- 1		
Use visual aids with oral presentation					
Provide lesson publiss or study guide					
Highlight instructions					
Give clear tichavioural expectations	-	-			
Ask student to repeat instructions for chritication & understanding				i = i	
Call on student often and check individually for comprehension					
Acknowledge student efforts regularly	1	-		1	
Remind student to stay on task		- 1			
Use large type	7.11			1-1	
Reep page format simple	100				
Use dank print	100			1 - 1	
Use coloured paper rather than white (indicate culour used)					
Perry't breaks during tests as approved by LAST					
Alternative testing / Evaluation procedures	(1)(1)				
Reduce number of test items					
Arrange for oral testing – to be reviewed after term 1			-		
Have SISO agminister test (LAST consultation needed)	100				
Adjusted life skills exams	2.0	-	- 1		
Alternative life skills report					
Organisational strategies					
Dee clary /calundar to plan assignment completion					
Use work checklist for completion of each task	10.0	- 1			
Qutline structure of lesson at the beginning of each puriod	771			1-1	
Develop parent/school flaison					
Teach time management	-				
Scaffold how to take tests					
Support Services			-	150	
Disability provisions approved with LAST consultation					
Behaviour monitoring card					
Worli with SISO					
Implement behaviour contract					
Provide clear conflict resolution strategies.	-			100	
LAST support in class/small group/program					

Sign Off	T1	T2	T3	T4	Comments (optional)	
Teacher	1000	П	П			
Head Teacher						_



# WARNERS BAY HIGH SCHOOL HPG Student Observed Behaviours CONFIDENTIAL

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SECTION C: To be completed by the successful applicant's class teacher.  Characteristic  School:  Characteristic  School:
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#### For further reading we suggest you review:

#### Teacher questioning

https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/professional-learning/teacher-quality-and-accreditation/strong-start-great-teachers/refining-practice/teacher-questioning

#### Bloom's taxonomy

## Differentiating Process



**<u>Differentiating Product & Differentiating Content</u>** (Covered in future PL)

These are the learning experiences that you use for students to develop their understanding of a topic. It involves:

- Providing varying levels of difficulty (tiered) or varying topics of interest
- Offering different amounts of teacher and student support to complete a task
- Giving students choice about how to express their understanding
- Varying the length of time provided for a task
- Providing access to materials targeting different learning styles
- Using different grouping strategies e.g. high with middle and middle with low.

Further Information here: https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/professional-learning/teacher-quality-and-accreditation/strong-start-great-teachers/refining-practice/differentiating-learning/what-to-differentiate

# Differentiating the Learning Environment



This can be a part of your teaching when you allow for individual work preferences and manage the learning space. It's the climate of the classroom and includes rules, furniture arrangement, lighting and organisation. This involves:

- making sure there are places in the room to work quietly and without distraction as well as places that invite student collaboration
- providing materials that reflect a variety of cultures and home settings
- setting clear guidelines for independent work that matches individual needs
- helping students understand that some learners need to move around to learn while others do better sitting quietly
- varying the places where learning occurs, for example, the lab or outside
- using alternative seating

E.g. Some students need lots of work space, some need a quiet area. Some like to engage in discussions, some like to work alone.

Further Information here: https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/professional-learning/teacher-quality-and-accreditation/strong-start-great-teachers/refining-practice/differentiating-learning/what-to-differentiate

## **Effective Questioning**



There are 4 key questioning strategies which include:

- 1. Designing higher cognitive questions
- 2. Developing a sequence of questions
- 3. Increasing wait time
- 4. Responding to answers using redirection, probing and reinforcement.

Several studies have confirmed that nearly half of student answers are at a different cognitive level than the teacher question, yet teachers generally accept these answers as sufficient without probing or prompting correct responses (Walsh & Sattes)

## **Questioning Frameworks**



There are several frameworks for questioning with the main ones being:

- Bloom's Taxonomy of Learning, Teaching & Assessing
- Weiderhold's Question Matrix
- The Questioning Toolkit
- Thinker's Keys
- De Bono's Six Thinking Hats

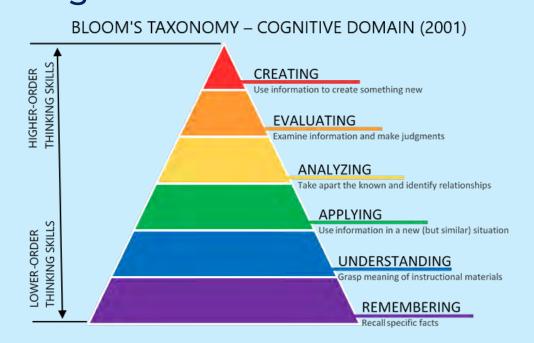


## How to Question



Most importantly - don't get so caught up in which question to ask. Remember your key purpose!

In Bloom's Taxonomy, questions range from recall to synthesising information.



## Types of Questions



#### **KNOWLEDGE**

Memory of previously learned material e.g.

What is...?

How did X

happen?

Where is?

#### **COMPREHENSION**

Understanding of facts & ideas e.g.

What is the main idea?

How could you

compare these?

What is meant by...?

#### **APPLICATION**

Solving problems in new situation by applying knowledge in a new way e.g.

How would you use ...?

What would happen

if..?

What other way could

vou plan to...?

Can you recall?

าค

## Types of Questions



#### **ANALYSIS**

Examining
information to
identify motive and
make inferences e.g.

What ideas justify...?

What inference can you make?

What evidence can you find?

#### **SYNTHESIS**

Compiling
information
together in a new
way e.g.

How would you improve...?

What is the theme?

What conclusions can you draw?

#### **EVALUATION**

Presenting and defending opinions by making judgments e.g.

What is your opinion?

How could you determine...?

What information would you use to support the view?

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### When Can I Question?



There are many opportunities for good questioning:

- Reading a picture book or novel why do think the character did this?
- Whilst working out a maths problem talk me through your thinking.
- Analysing a written text what do you think the author's purpose was here?
- History/Geography what evidence do you have that supports this?

## Take Away Task



Next time you are teaching a lesson, identify and tally the types of questions you use. How could you encourage better quality thinking and engagement?

Question types
Closed questions
Questions to stimulate recall
Open questions to stimulate discussion
Questions for classroom management
Questions to explore a topic
Questions to clarify understanding
Questions to assess understanding
Questions to evaluate and judge
Questions to reflect
Bloom's lower order 1 – 3
Blooms higher order 4 – 6

# Differentiating through setting individual learning goals

An evidence-based strategy to support differentiation.



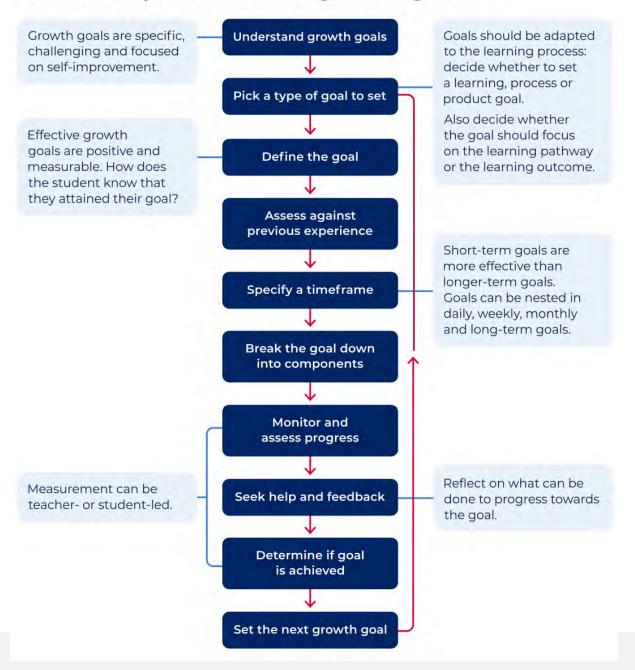
#### Setting individualised learning goals



# Involves striving to meet personally-set academic and social challenges, aiming to outperform one's previous best efforts or performance.

- Research shows that goal setting improves achievement and student engagement.
- Students who set growth goals are more likely to experience gains in aspirations, perseverance and homework behaviour.
- Goal setting bolsters outcomes, particularly for students of low SES backgrounds and with low prior achievement.
- Growth goal setting can be fostered through explicit teaching, provision of feedback and relevant content.
- Pre-assessments, parents questionnaires, goal setting interviews and regular goal reflection and feedback.

#### How to help students set growth goals







#### Through setting goals for your students, you can achieve:

- **Standard 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 1.6** Demonstrate knowledge of teaching strategies that are responsive to the learning strengths of students from diverse linguistic, cultural, religious and socioeconomic backgrounds. Differentiating teaching to meet the specific learning needs of students across the full range of abilities.
- Standard 2.3 Use curriculum, assessment and reporting knowledge to design learning sequences and lesson plans.
- **Standard 3.1, 3.5, 3.7** Set learning goals that provide achievable challenges for students of varying abilities and characteristics. Uses a range of verbal and non-verbal communication strategies to support student engagement. Plan for appropriate and contextually relevant opportunities for parents/ carers to be involved in their children's learning (Proficient).
- **Standard 4.1, 4.2** Support student participation and provides clear direction in classroom activities.
- Standard 5.1, 5.2, 5.4, 5.5 Assess student learning to derive data, interpret students data,
   providing feedback and report on students learning
- **Standard 7.3** Establish and maintain respectful collaborative relationships with parents/carers regarding their children's learning and wellbeing. (Proficient)

#### **Parent Survey**

To the Parent or Guardian of,
It is a great pleasure to have your child in 4EN with me this year. I believe your child will benefit from an ongoing communication between the teacher and parents. Please do not hesitate to contact me regarding your child's learning through ClassDojo or request an appointment with me before or after school through the office.
This survey will help me to understand your child's learning needs and your expectations of him/her. Please complete this sheet and ask your child to bring it back to me next week. Please feel free to use the back of this page to elaborate on any additional comments, questions, or concerns.
Thank you very much,  Ms Wong
What are your goals for your child in the coming year?
What specific concerns do you have about your child's academic progress or learning behaviour?
Does your child have any health concerns, or personal and family issues that might affect his or her behaviour or academic progress?
Anything else you would like me to know about your child?
Any questions you might have about classroom/learning procedures?

#### **Parents Survey**



- Standard 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 1.6

- Understanding your students' learning needs
- Specific health concerns
- Personal or family issues that might impact their learning progress.
- Building trust between your students, their families and you.

# Using data to inform each student's learning goals



#### Pretest Year 2 Unit 23 Lesson 1-4: Measurement

MAO-WM-01 develops understanding and fluency in mathematics through exploring and connecting mathematical concepts, choosing and applying mathematical techniques to solve problems, and communicating their thinking and reasoning coherently and clearly	Achieved

MAI-GM-02 measures, records, compares and estimates lengths and distances using uniform informal units, as well as metres and centimetres	Achieved
I can <b>recognise the need for formal units</b> to measure lengths and distances.	
I can <b>estimate lengths and distances</b> to the nearest metre and check by measuring.	
I can <b>use the metre as a unit to measure lengths and distances</b> to the nearest metre or half-metre.	
I can <b>record lengths and distances</b> using the abbreviation for metres (m).	

MAI-2DS-02 measures and compares areas using uniform informal units in rows and columns	Achieved
l am learning to compare rectangular <b>areas</b> using uniform square units of an appropriate size in rows and columns.	
I can <b>compare</b> the areas of two surfaces that cannot be moved, or superimposed, by measuring in uniform and informal units.	
I can cover rectangular surfaces by creating repeated rows or square tiles.	

	Identifying the structure of units
UuM6	<ul> <li>draws and describes the column and row structure to represent area as an array, moving beyond counting of squares by ones</li> <li>calculates the total area using rows and/or columns as composite units</li> <li>uses familiar household items as benchmarks when estimating mass and capacity (compares capacities based on knowing the size of a bottle of water)</li> <li>estimates lengths that lie between full units by visualising subdivisions of the unit</li> </ul>
= 7	Using the structure of units
UuM7	explains the difference between different measures of the same shape or object (area and perimeter, volume and mass, volume and capacity)     uses rows, columns and layers to find the number of units needed to measure volume     creates and uses the structure of repeated layers in determining the volume of a rectangular prism     uses dissection and rearrangement to calculate composite areas of unfamiliar shapes
	Using formal units
	<ul> <li>measures, compares and estimates length, area, mass, volume and capacity using standard formal units</li> <li>calculates perimeter using properties of two-dimensional shapes to determine unknown lengths</li> </ul>
	Converting units
UuM8	converts between formal units of measurement     recognises the relationship between metric units of measurement and the base-ten place value system

#### 

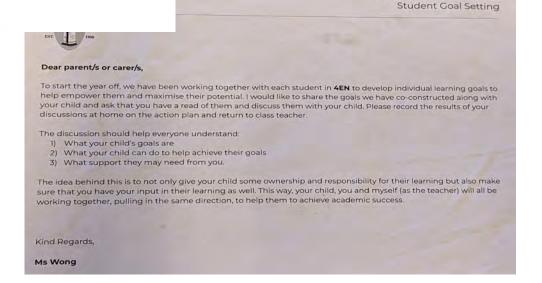
Partnering with their parents to define their goals

Campsie Public School

I have read and discussed my child	goals. We have discussed how we can work together to help achieve them.
	ike to further discuss my child's goals with the classroom teacher. I would like to book ding these goals over the next few weeks.
igned (student)	date;

Break down the goal into small practical steps along with their parents.

Signed (parent)





# Displaying their learning goals



Easy access to their individual

goals Oliver's Learning Goal Victor's Learning Con Alex & Learning Goal Hugo 's Learning Goal Ashley 's Learning Gold Chase 's Learning Goal Chelsea

Displays might look different depending on how your classroom is set up.

#### **Goal reflection and feedback**



# Goal reflection, feedback and refining your goals



Determine whether goals have been achieved and set new goals Writing Term \_\_ Week \_\_ Learning GOALS 🚳 Here is my evidence: How I feel about my goal: he mistakes I can learn I am proud of .. Strategies I can use next time are.. Term \_\_ Week Here is my evidence: How I feel about my goal: The mistakes I can learn I am proud of ...

#### Parent feedback and student success



After the teac confident		eived a happy and He kept telling me
n the evening	that he was activ	ely involved in
A SURFINE THE RESERVE OF THE STREET		d fulfilling his goal.
Thank you for	encouraging	The teacher
meeting was a	a great success. T	hank you again
Mrs Wong.		