

Guidance on adjustment level selection

These checklists are designed to assist schools in differentiating between quality differentiated teaching practice and the other three levels of adjustment.

Quality differentiated teaching practice

Planning

- Do you group students according to educational need?
- Do you link new information to background knowledge?
- Do you negotiate with students, whenever possible, regarding their requirements?
- Do you use whole class programs to address specific student needs eg: PATHS program?
- Do you use strategies to support the student's organisational skills?
- Do you cater for students' learning strengths when planning adjustments?
- Have you met with parents to discuss the child's program?
- Have you met with previous teachers to discuss transition?

Teaching

- Do you break down instructions into small steps?
- Do you highlight keywords/concepts?
- Do you modify the complexity of the task to meet different student needs?
- Do you reward students individually?
- Do you use a cool off strategy?
- Do you use a class based behaviour management plan?
- Do you use pre-teaching of vocabulary and concepts?
- Do you use basic curriculum visual supports eg: timetables, phonic charts, graphs?
- Do you use multi- level instructions?
- Do you use a variety of teaching styles eg: modelling, rephrasing, repetition, chunking?
- Do you present information in a variety of modes?
- Do you use pair/group discussion?
- Do you create the opportunity for student/teacher discussions?
- Do you link pedagogies to curriculum goals?
- Do you adjust the pace of presentation?
- Do you use cooperative learning groups?
- Do you use transition cues eg: topic changes?
- Do you use preferred activities to motivate students?
- Do you take into account different learning styles in your course/teaching delivery?

Support for Schools

Do you build background by linking concepts to students' background, past learning and key vocabulary?

Do you link to real world purposes?

Do you use questioning strategies to encourage students' development of critical thinking?

Do you provide written instructions?

Do you allow think time (take-up time) before expecting an answer?

Do you prompt students to use equipment properly eg: science equipment, hearing aids?

Do you remind students to use any necessary medical equipment eg: asthma puffer after lunch?

Assessment and Reporting

Do you use a portfolio where appropriate?

Do you use checklists?

Do you provide immediate, specific and constructive feedback?

Do you provide multiple opportunities for students to demonstrate what they know to do?

Do you use a range of assessment methods?

Do you use the standard reporting format?

Environment

Do you use specific seating arrangements to support students?

Do you provide opportunities for your students to move around the room?

Do you provide individual and group seating where appropriate?

Do you provide a quiet area within your classroom where appropriate?

Resources

Do you use specific seating arrangements to support students?

Do you integrate technologies to support curriculum?

Do you use a task schedule and daily calendar?

Supplementary adjustments

Planning

- Do you provide extra time to complete work tasks?
- Do you involve support services in planning eg: LSC?
- Do you use a risk management plan?
- Do you use a health care plan?
- Do you use student specific data collection?
- Do you provide students with work ahead of time?
- Do you regularly review and refine adjustments?
- Do you prearrange frequent breaks for the student?
- Do you collaborate with department support staff?
- Do you integrate key speech or occupational therapy strategies into your lesson?
- Do you organise regular case conferences?

Teaching

- Is teaching and reinforcing resilience embedded in all programs?
- Do you decrease the amount of oral and written information?
- Do you reduce the amount of workload expectation of the student?
- Do you limit amount of choice?
- Do you use key cues – pictorial/colour coding or tactile?
- Do you assign a peer tutor to support the student?
- Do you provide additional time to complete work tasks?
- Do you provide course information prior to the commencement of the course where appropriate?
- Do you provide a study guide for students with key terms and concepts where appropriate?
- Do you use a Sound Amplification System (SAS)/FM system?
- Do you provide access to online versions of course outlines and/or relevant material where appropriate?
- Do you teach self-regulation strategies in your class program?

Assessment and Reporting

- Do you set practical tasks for assessments?
- Do you provide ongoing feedback on academic performance?
- Do you offer assignments in alternative formats eg: role-play, oral presentation?
- Do you substitute assignments in specific circumstances?
- Do you provide individual advanced notice of assignments?

Support for Schools

Environment

- Do you adjust the physical surroundings eg: lighting, furniture positioning?
- Does your student sit near the door so they can access breaks outside the classroom?
- Do you provide a number of accessible safe/quiet areas around the school?
- Do you provide separate learning areas?
- Do you provide support to enable students to move around the school eg: maps, colour coding?
- Is an adult mentor provided to support students?

Resources

- Do you use specific classroom equipment eg: pencil grip, positional seat, electronic dictionaries?
- Do you colour code books and materials?
- Do you use graphic organisers eg: visual representations of task?
- Do you enlarge print or change font size and line spacing?
- Do you support the student by photocopying other notes?
- Do you use adaptive computer software eg: audio book?
- Do you use concrete examples to explicitly teach certain skills?
- Do you allow think time before expecting an answer?
- Do you use supports to introduce changes in routine eg: social story, advanced warning given?
- Do you provide a daily timetable eg: visual/pictures?
- Do you plan for the student to move towards independently managing their health care needs?
- Do you use an individual behaviour plan to modify behaviour?
- Do you record daily incidences of behaviour eg: SIS?
- Do you use a boundary training program?
- Do you use on desk goals and reminders?
- Do you use social stories to teach concepts
- Do you use a help card/time out/or respite card?
- Do you use picture cues to support the student?
- Do you support students in appropriately using equipment eg: orthotics, hearing aids?
- Do you use assistive technology to allow access to the curriculum eg: braille computer, notetaker?

Substantial adjustments

Planning

Do you use a number of support services to implement the curriculum eg: therapists, consulting teachers, school psychologists?

Do you regularly meet the school team and support services to discuss individual learning needs?

Do you collaborate with departmental support staff eg: behaviour centre?

Do you collaborate with external agencies at least monthly?

Has an emergency/critical incident plan been developed as part of a treatment plan?

Teaching

Do you use an interpreter for the students to access the curriculum?

Do you allow frequent breaks from work tasks throughout the day?

Do you provide an individualised program for part of the day?

Do you provide intensive individualised social skills instruction eg: one on one task analysed mastery of individual skills?

Do you use another form of communication eg: augmentative communication, Auslan, PECS?

Do you use individualised visual/tactile supports for implementing the curriculum?

Do you provide some level of support with personal care needs eg: toileting, dressing, eating?

Do you provide support for students travelling to and from school?

Do you provide individualised instruction over a number of areas of the curriculum for part of the day?

Do you provide individualised toileting support?

Do you use individual prompting throughout the school day to target a range of social skills?

Do you use strategies such as role-play, social stories, levels of prompting and task analysis to explicitly teach social skills?

Do you break down target skills into 1 or 2 stage instructions?

Do you use a reinforcement schedule to teach targeted skills?

Do you require support in addition to the classroom teacher to manage a health condition on a daily basis?

Do you implement therapy program goals in the individual education plan?

Do you use highly individualised strategies including functional behaviour analysis and input from support services to support complex behavioural needs, including self-harm?

Do you teach, monitor and review strategies for resilience for students in collaboration with support staff?

Do you use strategies to manage sensory input/integration?

Do you provide alternative programs to suit individualised learning needs?

Support for Schools

Assessment and Reporting

Do you have daily communication with parents/carers?

Do you provide finely sequenced individualised assessment and reporting?

Environment

Do you provide individualised support for movement around the school eg: buddy system / escort by class teacher / education assistant?

Do you provide support for the student to access all areas of the school environment?

Have you made significant adjustments to the school environment to meet the student's needs eg: painted boundary markers, adjusted timetables and room access to suit students with restricted mobility?

Do you use a withdrawal space/low stimulus to support your students' needs?

Resources

Do you use assistive technology devices to allow access to the curriculum eg: notetaker, braille writer, speech recognition software?

Extensive adjustments

Planning

Do you require a high level of input from support services to implement the education plan eg: therapists, school psychologist, external agencies?

Do you collaborate with departmental support and therapists daily/weekly?

Do you collaborate on teaching and learning strategies with external agency support frequently?

Teaching

Do you develop, monitor and review individualised strategies for resilience for students in collaboration with support staff?

Do you provide individual/physical prompting pervasively throughout the day?

Do you use concrete materials to implement the curriculum?

Do you use individual teaching strategies eg: discrete trial training, TEACCH, Applied Behaviour Analysis?

Do you provide an alternative curriculum eg: functional/life skills program?

Do you provide work skills/community access programs?

Do you provide sensory diets?

Do you use alternative methods of communication eg: Auslan, Braille, Augmentative communication?

Support for Schools

Do you use 1 or 2 stage instructions throughout the day?

Do you use intensive reinforcement schedules eg: every 1–3 minutes?

Do you create opportunities for generalisation daily?

Do you have an intensive individualised behaviour management plan that requires additional training?

Do you have an intensive individualised risk management plan that requires additional training?

Do you have an intensive individualised health care plan that requires additional training?

Do you include highly individualised self-care strategies in the curriculum eg: toileting, hygiene, eating, dressing?

Do you use approved restraint techniques at least once per day?

Do you require one on one physical support for the student to access the curriculum?

Do you use highly individualised strategies including functional behaviour analysis and input from support services to support complex behavioural therapy for mental health needs?

Do you use significantly reduced learning outcomes in all learning areas?

Do you use real life or photograph symbols pervasively throughout the day?

Do you need additional trained support pervasively throughout the day to manage a health condition?

Assessment and Reporting

Do you provide finely sequenced individualised assessment and reporting?

Do you use an intensive communication process in regards to reporting?

Environment

Do you use an alternative learning environment?

Do you use low stimulus/focus stimulus areas?

Do you use protective isolation room (with approval from Director School)?

Resources

Do you use highly specialised assistive technology eg: eye gazing technology, switch access to on-screen keyboards, head tracking?

Do you require highly individualised equipment for the student to access the curriculum eg: hoist, standing frame?

Do you provide equipment or support to move around and access all the areas of the school environment?