Innovative Strategies for Equity in the Classroom: Including ALL Students

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Educator Objectives

IDENTIFY INEQUITIES IN THE CLASSROOM AND HOW TO SUPPORT STUDENTS

CREATE EQUITABLE CLASSROOMS FOR ALL STUDENTS BY OFFERING STRATEGIES TO FOSTER A FEELING OF INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY IN THE CLASSROOM.

IDENTIFY WAYS TO CREATE AN INCLUSIVE CLASSROOM

2

Personal Identity Wheel

Encourages students to reflect on how they identify with outside of social identifiers

Prompts students to list adjectives to describe themselves and skills they have

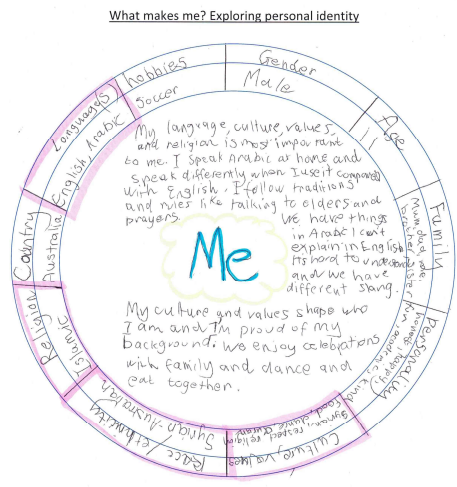Prompts students to describe themselves

This wheel works with the Social Identity Wheel (used best in older classes)

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Personal Identity Wheel- Application

Allow time for the students to learn about each other and gain an appreciation for the diversity they bring to the classroom.

Remind them how boring it would be if we were all alike and there were no differences among us to make each person unique.

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Ways to Retain Information

1. Use visual aides

2. Demonstrate and model

3. Participate in group discussions

4. Put into practice

5. Teach Others

6. Relate to Experiences You Already Know

7. Retrieve from Memory

8. Try it "out loud"

9. Embrace mistakes

10. Write or draw by hand

https://www.opencolleges.edu.au/informed/learning-strategies/10-ways-to-retain-more-of-what-you-learn/

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The Potato Activity
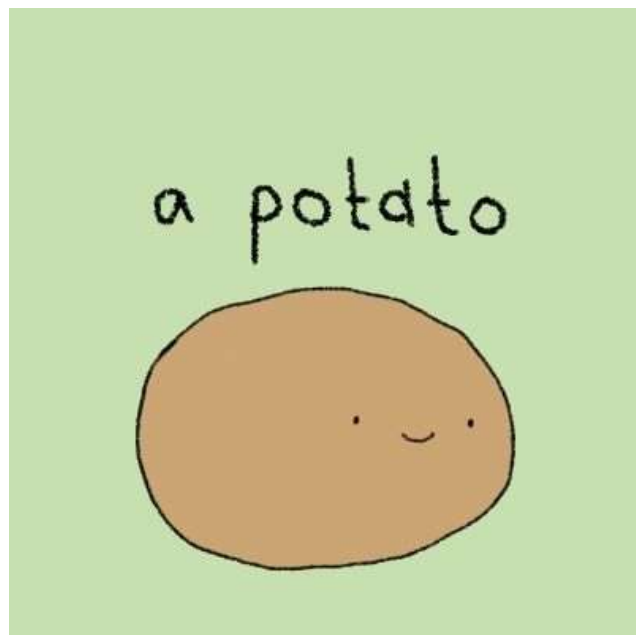
a potato

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The Potato Activity

This activity helps students to eliminate stereotypes and to recognize the uniqueness of everyone.

Students will:
- Understand concepts of culture and intercultural adaptation
- Become more aware of their own culture and recognize its influence on their behaviors
- Become more self-aware, able to view themselves objectively.

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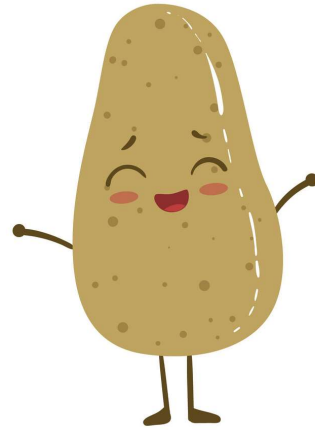
Equity versus Equality

EQUALITY   EQUITY

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Equity is:

- Adaptable
- Individual-focused
- Fair

Equality is:

- Generic
- Group-focused
- Equal

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Benefits & Challenges Involving Equity & Equality in Schools

BENEFITS

Higher test scores

Better health

Stronger social atmosphere

Longer life

Economic growth

CHALLENGES

Barriers to an inclusive education can affect groups based on race, gender, and many other factors.

Poverty-60% of the most disadvantaged students come from under-resourced homes or communities.

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Barriers to Equity

- Family crises
- Mental health issues
- Lack of healthcare
- Coming to school hungry
- Homelessness or living in a temporary shelter
- Still learning the English language

Scholastic Teachers and Principals Report

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Ways Teachers can Promote Equity in the Classroom:

Seek multiple perspectives and different answers to questions

Show students the *why* behind how things are done when possible

Acknowledge every student's comment or response, even if it's incorrect

Teach appropriate language around asking questions about other students' cultures. One student isn't a representative of their entire culture, but they can share their specific experiences.

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Understanding Inclusion

Exclusion

Segregation

Integration
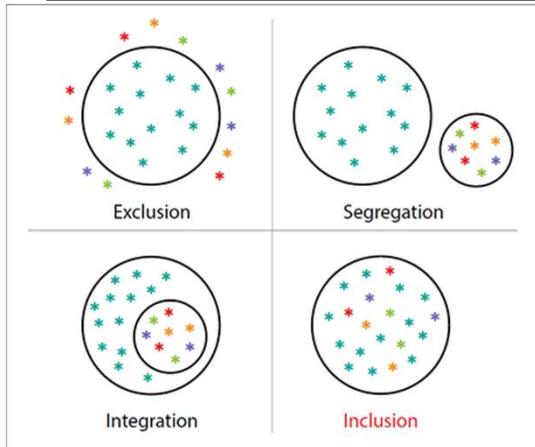
Inclusion

Inclusive classrooms include and support ALL children.

Every child is an equal participant in the learning process and receives the supports needed to succeed.

https://www.readingrockets.org/teaching/inclusive-classrooms

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How to Build an Inclusive Classroom

Peer Support & Social Inclusion
- Find "safe" people
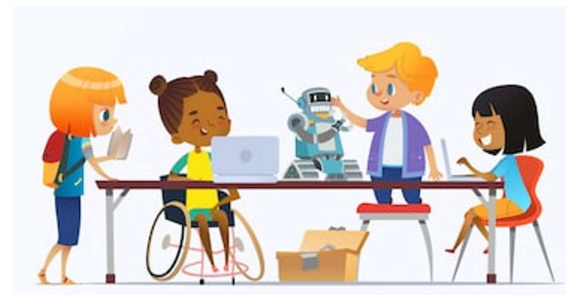- Rely on others (teacher & student)

Sensory Friendly Spaces
- Create safe spaces
- Classroom environment & interactions

Differentiate Instruction
- Accommodations and Modifications

Universal Design for Learning

Review IEPs

https://online.utpb.edu/about-us/articles/education/creating-an-inclusive-classroom-in-special-education/

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There is No Place Called Inclusion

" Inclusion is a belief that ALL students, regardless of labels, should be members of the general education community. The philosophy of inclusion encourages the elimination of the dual special and general education systems, and the creation of a merged system that is responsive to the needs of all students."

Cathy Pratt, 1997/Reading Rockets

Differentiated Instruction

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Peer Support & Social Inclusion

Ensure	Ensure the room is physically accessible for all students. Remove any barriers that might prevent a child getting from one place to another.
Position	Position children with disabilities in the midst of their peers.
Encourage	Encourage children without disabilities to interact with all of their peers.
Promote	Promote authentic friendships- children without impairments sometimes take on the "parenting" role instead of the friend role.
Help	Help students find common ground as friends.
Give	Give all students tools for interactions and conversations (images, toys, materials, etc).

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Differentiate Instruction

Who do we include in the general education classroom?

◦ Students with Varying Exceptionalities
◦ Students with Behavior Disorders (part-time EBD)
◦ Students on Access Points
◦ Students with severe disabilities
◦ Student with Other Health Impairments (ADHD)
◦ Students with physical impariments

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How to Differentiate

◦ Offer varied student products

◦ Set up learning stations or centers

◦ Use different grouping configurations

◦ Vary the learning materials

◦ Communication Modes

◦ Assistive Technology

◦ Prompting Level

◦ IEP Objectives

What is DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION?
Differentiation means tailoring instruction to meet individual needs.
Differentiated instruction aims to:
improve learning outcomes
increase engagement
increase self-awareness
inspire a love of learning
help students learn more efficiently and with deeper understanding
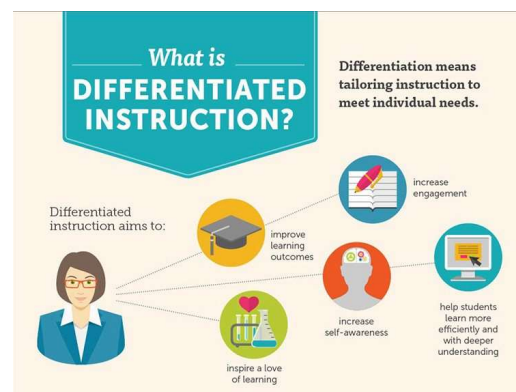
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Accommodations vs. Modifications

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Make Learning "Sticky"

Kohn, Art. "Brain Science: Overcoming the Forgetting Curve." Learning Solutions Magazine

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"An inclusive classroom climate refers to an environment where all students feel supported intellectually and academically, and are extended a sense of belonging in the classroom regardless of identity, learning preferences, or education. Such environments are sustained when instructors and students work together for thoughtfulness, respect, and academic excellence, and are key to encouraging the academic success of all students."

https://poorvucenter.yale.edu/ClassClimates

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Three Adjectives to Describe Yourself

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

_____
Name

Birth Order · Favorite Music · One Skill you are Proud of · Number of Siblings · Favorite Movie · Personal Motto · Favorite Book · Favorite Color · Favorite Hobby · Favorite Food

Potato Story
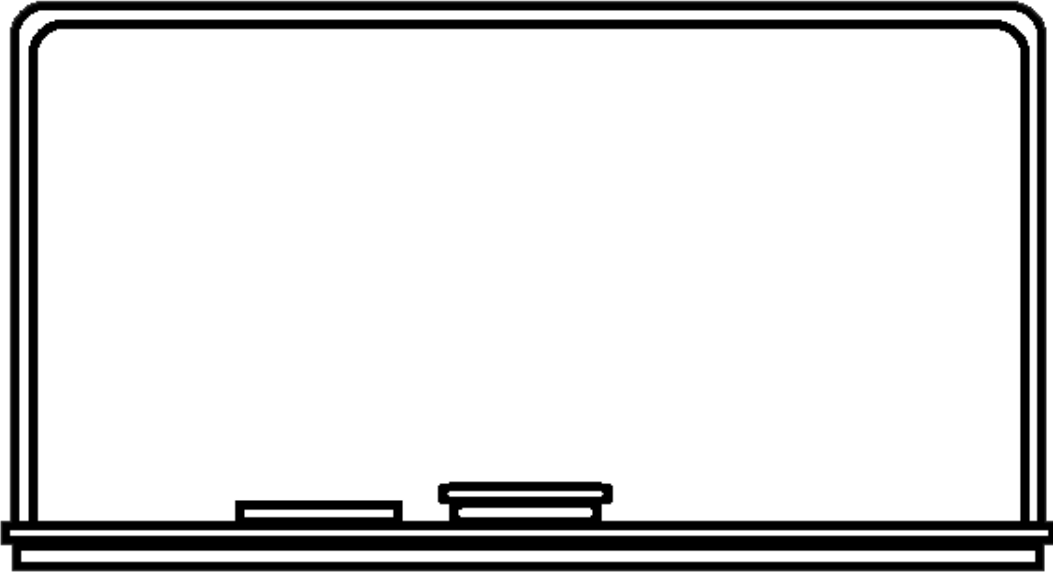
Equity

vs.

Equality
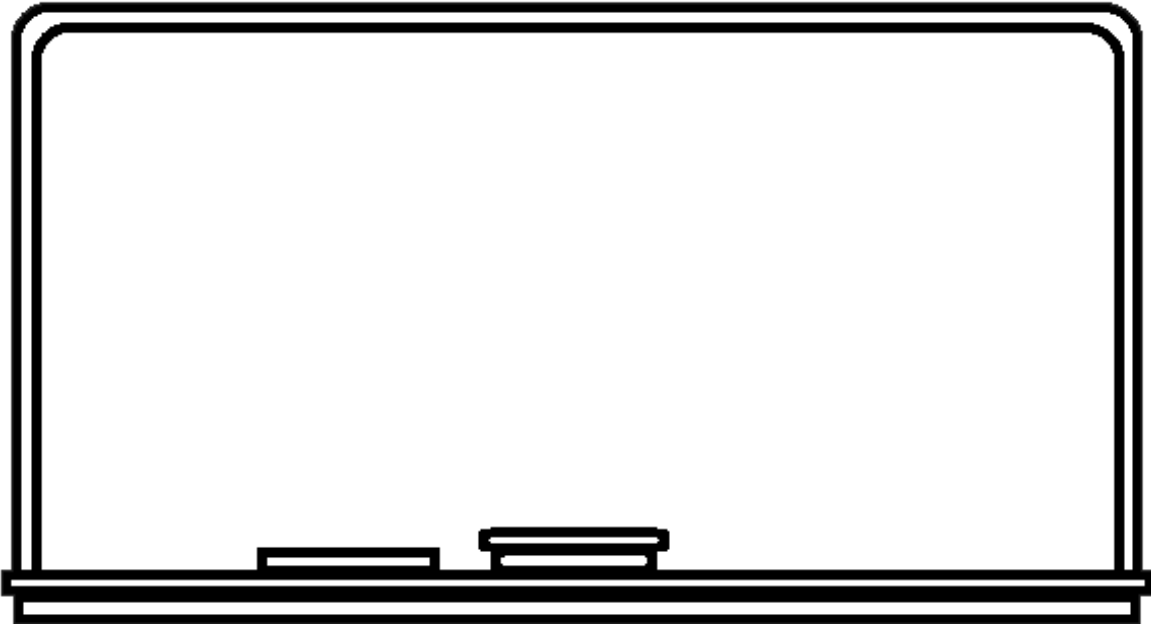
Benefits vs. Challenges

Promoting Equity in the Classroom

How to Build an Inclusive Classroom

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

STICKY
learning

Great Resources for Inclusion

Multicultural Pavilion

- http://www.edchange.org/multicultural/
- Check out, for example, the "Awareness Activities" link that contains helpful icebreakers and introspective exercises for students.

Reading Rockets

- https://www.readingrockets.org/
- Reading Rockets is a national public media literacy initiative offering information and resources on how young kids learn to read, why so many struggle, and how caring adults can help.

Sherlock Center for Disabilities

- https://w3.ric.edu/sherlockcenter/wwslist.html
- The Sherlock Center is committed to helping students with severe disabilities to participate in the general curriculum. As resources permit, the Sherlock Center creates adapted versions of popular literature for use by students, teachers, and families.

Paula Kluth's Differentiation Daily

- http://differentiationdaily.com/
- This site is a collection of contains nearly 800 ideas to help educators add interest, relevance, fun, and novelty to classroom instruction.

CAST.org Universal Design for Learning

- https://www.cast.org/impact/universal-design-for-learning-udl
- Universal Design for Learning (UDL) is a framework to improve and optimize teaching and learning for all people based on scientific insights into how humans learn.