

Spotlight on Adapting Lessons for Students with Additional Needs

Responding well to diversity in today's classes is one of the most important things a teacher can do, as well as one of the most challenging.¹ There are many small changes you can make which will make a big difference to your students.

Adapting Lessons

GodSpace is designed to support diverse needs. The lesson notes and teaching tips often provide points to consider for different students. Check the different age groups for activities that best suit your students. The lesson aim will remain the same, but how you get there might be different. This might include:

- Changing the actions to a song so all students in the class can participate
- Using a question from an older or younger age-group to challenge or support your students
- Writing, drawing or acting out responses to a question instead of discussing in a group.



Be Proactive

Ask the school or classroom teacher:

- Which students have additional needs?
- What support strategies are in place and how best to implement them?
- Any other important information that you need to be aware of?

Top Tips!

Notice Competencies

It can be easy to think about what students can't do, but it is more helpful to think about what they can do. This will help you choose activities that will work best for your students. Ask students if they would like help, rather than assuming that they will.

Provide Both Variety & Consistency

Many students benefit from having a routine or a familiar structure, whilst others engage best when there is something new and interesting. You might start each lesson with a song or prayer, but also include new songs or a different way to pray.

Provide an Explanation

Sometimes it can be helpful to provide an explanation, particularly if you have students from different classes. Keep it simple and brief. Foster empathy and acceptance. Avoid pity, undue attention and stereotyping.

Don't Go It Alone

Keep talking with colleagues, the school and ask people to pray for your lessons. Consider how you can use the different gifts and skills of your students to support each other.

Examples...

TOBY HAS A DUST-MITE ALLERGY. HE NEEDS TO SIT ON A CHAIR SO HIS SKIN DOESN'T GET ITCHY AND SORE FROM THE CARPET.

KIARA NEEDS ROUTINES TO HELP HER FEEL SAFE. WHEN WE TRY SOMETHING NEW WE NEED TO GIVE HER A WARNING ABOUT THE CHANGE, AND TIME TO ADJUST.

JOHN HAS A SENSORY OBJECT TO HELP HIM FOCUS WHEN SITTING STILL.

¹Groundwater-Smith, Ewing, R., & Le Cornu, R. (2015). Teaching : challenges & dilemmas (5th edition.). Cengage Learning Australia.