

MLD Quality First Teaching

DESCRIPTION

The majority of students with special educational needs have Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD), which means they have general developmental delay. They do not find learning easy, which affects their self-esteem and may result in poor behaviour. They have short attention spans, present difficulties with basic literacy and numeracy and their reasoning and coordination skills are underdeveloped.

STRATEGIES

- Use differentiated worksheets, word banks, writing frames and ICT software;
- Allow extra time to complete tasks and tests
- Improve self-esteem by building on students' strengths and interests
- Break down new tasks into bitesize chunks with plenty of opportunities for reinforcement
- Make sure that every lesson's learning objectives are realistic and allow some success to be experienced
- Check understanding, building supportive relationships and using appropriate praise, encouragement and questioning to ensure participation
- Keep tasks short, build in variety and repeat information in different ways
- Establish what students already knows about a topic and be prepared to go back to the point where their knowledge is secure
- Show the student what to do as well as talking about it, giving concrete examples.
- When reading a large amount of texts, encourage students to use different coloured highlighters. One could be to highlight who, one for when, one for why etc. This then allows the student to find answers more easily and break down the text.
- Rather than having students read to the whole class, encourage paired reading so that students read to each other.
- If students do read to the class, tell them that if there is a word they don't know, they can miss it out and carry on.
- Mark 'target' spellings only – avoid death by deep marking! Apply an 80% accuracy standard, allowing students to 'pass' where they have made a good attempt.
- Focus on big picture success, rather than word or spelling accuracy ie encourage 'thinking', not just 'reading' accuracy – in the right context 'butifull' is much better than 'nice'
- Often some students feel overwhelmed by having to write essay type answers to show their knowledge. Alternative methods of assessment could be:
 - Mind maps showing who, what, why, where, when and how. These could include pictures with some words
 - Bullet points of the main points
 - Storyboards including pictures and captions
 - Table showing what, why, where, when and how