

1 Inclusive March...
Check your School
Inclusion Rating

2 Are We Using
Assessment
for Effective
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and Inclusion?

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Yourself.

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from recent
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MARCH 2008

INCLUSION *focus*

Check Your School *Inclusion Rating*

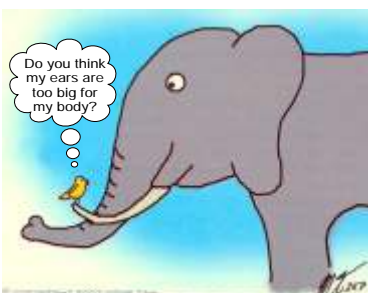
- ◆ Does your school enable all students to participate fully in all aspects of school life?
- ◆ Does your school celebrate different kinds of achievement?
- ◆ Does your school treat all students as being potentially able and creative?
- ◆ Does your school support students as they celebrate their own diversity mentally, physically and academically?
- ◆ Does your school differentiate instruction and assessment strategies in response to the diverse needs of all students?

Diversifying Classroom Assessments *Improves Students Grades*

Teachers who differentiate their assessments allow students to show what they know in a number of ways. **An important reason for differentiating** products and assessment procedures is to ensure that your students are learning what you are teaching.

The information you gather from differentiated assessment helps you design better and better lessons that meet your students diverse needs.

Thousand, Jacqueline S. - Differentiating Instruction, 2007, p. 80



“You are not what you think you are...
what you think, you are.”
- Norman Vincent Peale

Expanding *Your* Vision



What is your Everest?

- Combining different teaching and learning styles when co-teaching.
- Finding adequate time to plan for co-teaching and time for reflection after.

What is your student's Everest?

- Preparing for high school exams and living with a mental illness.
- Paying attention in class while dealing with a learning disability, ADHD, hearing or visual impairment.

Did *You* Know...

- ❖ That many people living with a mental illness report that the stigmatization of mental illness causes them more suffering than the disease itself.
- ❖ That Canada is currently the only G8 nation without a national strategy to address mental illness.
- ❖ That currently there is no easy way for mental health stakeholders across Canada to share knowledge and exchange information.

Since the “*Out of the Shadows At Last*” document by senator Michael Kirby was tabled in its final report in May 2006, there has been a lot of activity. A Board of Commission and eight Advisory Committees have been established. The Advisory Committees consist of:

- ◆ Child and Youth
- ◆ First Nations, Inuit & Métis
- ◆ Family Caregivers
- ◆ Mental Health and the Law
- ◆ Seniors
- ◆ Workplace
- ◆ Service Systems
- ◆ Science

After 50 meetings, 130 hours of hearings, from 300 witnesses across Canada the following key initiatives were established:

- launch of an anti-stigma campaign
- promotion of the development of a national mental health strategy, and;
- creation of a Knowledge Exchange Centre (KEC)

The logo is used with the permission of the Mental Health Commission of Canada. For updated information on their progress please visit www.mentalhealthcommission.ca

What Teachers Say About *Team Teaching & Parallel Teaching* for Including Students

- ✓ Classroom management is easier
- ✓ Through these methods more students with diverse needs are reached
- ✓ Work load is cut down when shared between one or more teachers
- ✓ Teachers' and students' self-esteem and sense of self-worth are improved
- ✓ The co-teaching methods can work in High School, Junior High School or Elementary / Primary
- ✓ When co-taught, more students are engaged in the mixed ability classroom.
- ✓ Teachers can focus in more on the individual strengths of their students.
- ✓ Teacher accountability is increased.
- ✓ Co-teaching allows for improved assessment of students work in the diverse classroom.

Inclusion Itinerants

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THERE ARE FIVE COMPONENTS REQUIRED FOR SUCCESSFUL CO-TEACHING:



1

Positive interdependence
between teachers

2

Individual accountability
for each
teacher's work

3

Sharing the
monitoring
of the
group progress

4

Modeling social skills
development
between teachers

5

Face-to-face meeting time
to plan and evaluate
students progress

*“In order to teach you,
I must know you”
- Delpit, 1995*

Up-Coming Events April

Cooperative Teaching for
Inclusive Education ½ Day Session
(Vista, Burin, & Western Regions)

Work-Life Balance ½ Day Session
(All Regions)

Check Member Services for
registration and details.