A Guide to Personalized Learning
What is Personalized Learning and Why is It So Important?

Each classroom is bound to contain students with a variety of different skill levels, learning styles, and academic needs. Personalized learning means tailoring education to the specific way that each student learns.

In classrooms today, limited time, limited resources, and pre-determined curriculum define some of the obstacles teachers face in overcoming the personalized learning challenge.

Private tutoring and after school programs have, in recent years, been the closest forms of true, personalized instruction.

So, how can you overcome the personalized learning challenge in your classroom?
Plan Lessons around Personalized Learning Guidelines

Be sure that each lesson is designed to cater to each learning style in your classroom. Each lesson should...

- Have a definite aim for all students.
- Include a variety of teacher techniques aimed at reaching students at all levels.
- Consider student learning styles in the presentation of the lesson.
- Involve all students in the lesson through the use of questioning aimed at different levels of thinking.
- Allow that some students will require adjusted expectations.
- Provide a choice in the method students can use to demonstrate their understanding of the concepts.
- Accept that each different method a child chooses to demonstrate his or her understanding is of equal value.
- Evaluate students based on their individual differences.

Want to read more about these guidelines and other tips? Click Here for the full article.
Consider 10 Tips for Personalizing Learning in Your Classroom

1. Try to **deliver lessons and instruction through multiple forms of media** including computers and interactive whiteboards. Use technology to access videos, audio, pictures, animations, and games. Integrate digital cameras and video cameras into your lessons if possible.

2. **Gather and use immediate feedback on students’ understanding.** Try using remote response systems or clickers to gather feedback quickly in order to diagnose problem areas and struggling students.

3. **Give students options.** Allow students to showcase what they have learned in multiple ways. Offer options such as a slideshow, a comic strip, a timeline, a 3-D model, or a skit to cater to each student’s interests and skills.
4. **Automate basic skills.** Practice math skills or science trivia using software programs that can track students’ scores and progress. Choose which lesson each student will complete next time dependent on what their scores show.

5. **Practice independent work skills.** Teach students how to work independently without a teacher telling them what to do. Teach students what they are expected to do when they enter a classroom. Log on to the computer, start reading, etc.

6. **Create a personalized list for each student** of the assignments they must complete that week and assignments they may complete after the rest are finished. Students with different tasks will inevitably finish at different times. This way, each student is always occupied, and each has a personalized lesson for the week.
7. **Pre-test students’ knowledge before each unit.** Determine a way to discover where each child stands on the information that needs to be covered in the next unit. Talk in depth with each child or ask the students to raise their hands on an “I know” or “I don’t know” basis.

8. **Be flexible when things don’t go as planned.** Teach your students it’s OK when things go awry.

9. **Let students take over.** If your school has the proper technology, make use of it. Let kids videotape each other giving presentations. Let them lead lessons on the interactive whiteboard. Let them work at their own pace to discover ways to work around challenges and work on skills.

10. **Share the work of creating different lessons** for different skill levels. Meet with members of your grade level team to create lessons for lower skilled kids, higher skilled kids, and kids in-between.

[Click Here](#) to read the full article and to learn more about these 10 tips.
Encourage a Personalized Environment Using These Strategies

**Cohorts.** The Cohort approach allows students to share a set of classes and teachers. Teachers are able to act as a joint support system for all students and students are able to develop strong, supportive relationships with one another.

**Looping.** Students are matched with teachers for subsequent years. This allows the student-teacher relationship to grow and gives the teacher insight to the student’s strengths, weaknesses, and interests, which, in turn, will allow for more personalized instruction.

**Advisories.** Groups of 10 to 15 students meet with an advisor regularly throughout the school year. Advisors can help realize what each child’s strengths and weaknesses are through frequent interaction.
**Student Choice.** Give students options to negotiate curriculum, develop personalized learning plans, work with teachers to break down complex tasks. Students will be more involved in school, the person they are becoming, and goals for the future.

**Mentors.** In a personalized learning environment, each student is connected to a mentor who can help that student reach his or her highest potential, whether that person is a teacher, coach, administrator, or advisor.

[Click Here](#) to learn more and read the full article about these strategies.
Use Tools and Activities to Address Varied Learning Needs

Class Lessons
Assessments
Skill Building Games
Group Projects
Online Courses
Tutoring
Museum Site Visit
Blogs
Independent Research

Click Here for the full article and to read more about personalized learning and these activities.
netTrekker Search Offers Features to Aid in Personalized Learning

- Take advantage of technology tools like netTrekker Search’s read aloud, dictionary and translation hot keys. Content is more understandable for struggling students, or for students who want to read above their level.

- Try creating My Portfolio folders for each learning style or skill level for students to access.

- netTrekker Search resources display reading level in each search. Use the levels to choose appropriate resources for each student.

- Use refinement menus to narrow down searches to find exactly the resource each student needs.

To learn more about netTrekker Search or to answer any questions you may have, visit us at nettrekker.com, call us at 877.517.1125, or Click Here to watch a Guide to Personalizing Learning with netTrekker Search.
Learn More About Personalized Learning and What You Can Do!

Click on these resources to learn more about overcoming the personalized learning challenge.

Differentiated Instruction Allows Students to Succeed

Strategies for Differentiating

Active Learning Is Key to Differentiated Instruction

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