

Mixed Ability Teaching In Practice in Primary Settings

(workshop I)



Strategic SENCo Conference

24th October 2018

Kate Starr

Aims

- To reflect on why mixed ability teaching is so important & consider at some of the benefits mixed ability teaching can have
- To be able to return to your setting with some ideas to help increase mixed ability learning and improve experiences and outcomes for pupils with SEND
- To begin an action plan of some steps you can take to develop practice in your setting

Activity ~ My School Day

Who does the pupil speak to?

Who do they hear talk?



Who do they interact with at recreation times?

What impact does their school day have on their learning experiences?



What opinions do they have about their own abilities?

What is their attitude to learning?

Strategies

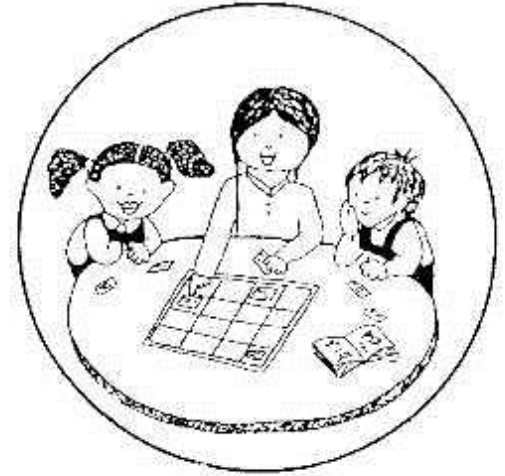
Strategies
Mixed-ability 'talk partners'
Mixed-ability tables
End product created as a pair or group
Put the children in control
Kagan Cooperative Structures
Investigative approaches
Questions with a range of answers
Collaborative Learning activities



Questioning with a range of answers

Original, limited 'recall' question	Question reframed, giving it with a range of answers to discuss e.g. reasons for the wrong ones
What is 5 squared?	3, 7, 10, 25, 125
Which physical activities improve the efficiency of the heart?	Cycling, walking, golf, swimming, skydiving, darts
What makes a good friend?	Kindness, always honest, shares their sweets, a bully, someone good looking, someone loyal
What does a plant need to grow?	Air, water, lemonade, light, heat, sand, soil, milk

Collaborative Learning



1) Establish group goals

2) Individual accountability

Dylan Wiliam

Professor of Educational Assessment at University College London

Collaborative Learning ~ Group Roles

- Manager
- Encourager
- Recorder
- Reporter



Activity ~ Action Plan



Pupil and School Support

Partners on the pathway to a positive future for children and young people

Developing Mixed-Ability Practice in my setting

School Name: _____	What? What actions do you need to take?	Who? Who needs to be involved?	When? Set a date to achieve this action by
Is there someone else you need to talk to about your thoughts in response to the workshop?			
What information do staff at your school need to be able to make changes in their practice?			
How are you going to present the information in a way that supports this implementation and better outcomes for children?			

www.accesstoeducation.birmingham.gov.uk

Useful Links & Further Reading

Collaborative Learning

<http://www.collaborativelearning.org/activities.html> for
cross curricular games ideas

<https://ealresources.bell-foundation.org.uk/teachers/great-ideas-collaborative-activities>

<https://ealresources.bell-foundation.org.uk/teachers/great-ideas-collaborative-activities>

No pens day

<https://www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/projects/no-pens-day-wednesday/>

Useful Links & Further Reading

Blogs

<https://www.theguardian.com/teacher-network/teacher-blog/2017/nov/22/ditching-the-sets-why-were-teaching-mixed-ability-lessons-for-science>

<http://www.eteachblog.com/10-ways-to-get-the-best-out-of-mixed-ability-classes/>

Kagan Cooperative Structures

https://www.kaganonline.com/free_articles/ &

https://www.kaganonline.com/free_articles/research_and_rationale/330/The-Essential-5-A-Starting-Point-for-Kagan-Cooperative-Learning

EEF Dialogic Teaching

<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/pdf/generate/?u=https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/pdf/content/?id=1743&e=1743&t=EEF%20publishes%20four%20new%20independent%20evaluations&s=&mode=embed>

Useful Links & Further Reading

Third Space Learning

<https://thirdspacelearning.com/blog/maths-activities-use-mixed-ability-groupings-primary-classroom/>

TES

<https://www.tes.com/news/how-make-mixed-ability-work-let-children-take-control-lesson>

<https://www.tes.com/news/how-setting-can-lead-double-disadvantage>

<https://www.tes.com/news/nine-dos-and-donts-mixed-ability-classes>

Book ~ Questioning & Talking Partners

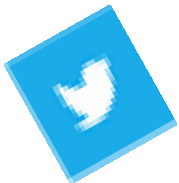
“Formative Assessment in Action, weaving the elements together”, Sandra Clarke (2011) ISBN 0-340-90782-7



Evaluation form: Please add to your conference evaluation form.

Workshop I Mixed ability teaching in practice

Thank you!



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