



Suggestions for Adapting VAPA Lessons for Students with Diverse Learning Needs

Note: The suggestions listed below do not supplant **FIRST BEST PRACTICE** but support and/or enhance strategies and methods applied in the classroom. This is not an exhaustive list as strategies and methods to support diverse learner needs can be infinite.

- Use as few steps as possible to present and/or explain a concept/project.
- Keep instruction simple.
- Integrate [UDL principles](#) at each level of lesson implementation.
- Present and/or explain concepts using a variety of modalities.
- Simplify vocabulary.
- Use a lot of visuals and quick easy to follow demonstrations.
- Lessons should have a clear sequence that makes it easy for students to follow and anticipate what's next.
- Be clear about the outcome (what the product should look like).
- Model how to do the action.
- Tap into students' background and/or prior knowledge to facilitate connections and understanding.
- Provide lots of opportunities for students to talk and share their thinking.
- Offer choice for product/assignment completion such as presentation options, and materials used.
- Ensure ample time is allotted to complete the project(s) and/or assignment(s).
- Flexible pacing (in the delivery of content).
- Provide frequent feedback along the way.
- Utilize partners and/or groups.
- Allow "hands-on" opportunity as much as possible.
- Allow student gallery walks after the completion of visual arts projects.
- Maintain a routine that takes the students through and/or allows exploration of an arts concept.
- Be aware of overstimulation issues for students who may need less in terms of choice, noise, access to materials, etc.
- Ensure access to tools and other instructional aids that support the learning, such as step by step sequence for a dance, or graphic organizers.
- Think outside the box in terms of grading, like rubrics, single point rubrics or narrative grading.

Sources:

<https://artshoptherapy.com/blog/posts/tips-for-adapting-art-for-special-needs-kids-in-your-classroom/>

<https://www.incredibleart.org/files/special2.htm>

<https://do2learn.com/disabilities/CharacteristicsAndStrategies/Overview.html>

UDL Barrier/Symptoms (video)- bit.ly/UDLengagementDD

UDL Barrier Solutions (video)- bit.ly/Representationdrilldown

UDL Barrier Solutions (video)- bit.ly/ActionExpressionDD

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