



LEARNING CARD : DIFFERENTIATION: RESPONDING TO LEARNER NEEDS



Pause and Reflect:

QUESTION 1:

How do you group learners in your hub?
What types of informal assessment do you use as part of learning?

Pause and Reflect:

QUESTION 2:

What strategies do you use to assist learners with a range of disabilities?

When showing this film, pause at the Pause & Reflect (P&R) questions & encourage the participants to respond to the question. This film looks at the needs of individual learners and the ways in which hubs can respond to these diverse requirements.

P&R 1: In the film, the CE explains how they initially assess and group the learners. The first question in this P&R explores this area with the participants. You can ask participants to share their methods with the group, describing what they do and why. The follow up question looks at informal assessment in a more general way. To get the most out of this you could put the participants in pairs and ask each pair to make notes on 2 ways in which they informally assess their learners. Then ask each pair to describe one of their examples to the whole group. Avoid pairs repeating the same type of activity and keep going around until there are no new methods remaining.

P&R 2: This question focuses on working with young women with disabilities. This is an ideal opportunity to share experiences. A brainstorming activity would be useful here to come up with an initial range of disabilities that hubs are working with; follow this up with detailed discussion on strategies that have proven to be successful or challenging. A useful outcome of this activity would be a poster with information on strategies that work alongside particular disabilities.

A final activity with this film would be to discuss the practicalities of working in a differentiated way, ie with different tasks for different groups of learners. How do you manage that and ensure that all learners have worked on the core material but in ways that are responsive to individual needs? What are the challenges associated with this type of classroom teaching and how have the hubs resolved them?

Pause and Reflect:

RESPONSE 1:

Different hubs will have different methods of both grouping and informal assessment. Elicit as much detail as you can from the participants.

Pause and Reflect:

RESPONSE 2:

Share experiences – what disabilities do your learners have? Which strategies have worked and which have been disappointing? How can you build on successes?