

Inclusive education: Teaching students with learning difficulties and disabilities in mainstream classrooms

- For teachers of all students in all classrooms
- Increases awareness of how learning difficulties and disabilities impact on students' learning
- Broadens understanding of how to develop inclusive practices across schools
- Develops understanding of designing a curriculum to meet the learning needs of all students

The goal of inclusion in society begins with inclusion within the schooling process. Students with special learning needs are present in all educational settings. Inclusive education: Teaching students with learning difficulties and disabilities in mainstream classrooms is a professional development program that provides teachers and schools with an understanding of inclusive education practices for students with learning difficulties and disabilities. It provides teachers with the knowledge, skills and strategies necessary to understand a student's strengths, learning needs and challenges, and therefore to develop and deliver an appropriate curriculum.

The aims of Inclusive education

- Develop an understanding of the philosophy, benefits and processes of inclusive education.
- Develop an understanding of the pivotal role that a teacher's beliefs and pedagogy play in extending curriculum access for all students.
- Critically discuss and trial various strategies.
- Develop collaborative working relationships between teachers through the building of a shared understanding of how to develop inclusive practices across schools.

Two interlinked components

Inclusive education comprises two interlinked components:

- Tutor Training Program
- Teacher Development Course.

Tutor Training Program

The Tutor Training Program is an intensive five-day train-the-trainer professional development program for teachers. The training is delivered in host schools around the world to small groups of between 10 and 20 teachers.

Successful graduates of the training become resident school-based Tutors who deliver the Teacher Development Course. This provides your school with cost-effective, school-managed professional development.

There are now more than 2500 Unlocking the World licensed Tutors working in over 70 countries around the world. Using our programs, these Tutors have provided professional development to over 31,000 teachers.

Teacher Development Course

As an *Inclusive education* trained Tutor, you can deliver the Teacher Development Course in your own school. The course incorporates group workshops, classroom-based activities and highly practical readings. It provides teachers, working across the curriculum, with successful

classroom strategies for improving the learning achievements of students with learning difficulties and disabilities in mainstream classrooms.

Tutors deliver 27 hours of face-to-face learning in nine modules which, when combined with between module readings and activities, is equivalent to more than 45 hours of professional development for teachers.

The course provides teachers with an opportunity to engage in rigorous and sustained professional development. Consequently, a number of tertiary institutions around the world, and in Australia, will grant credit towards further post-graduate studies. Further information is available at www.unlockingtheworld.com.

The outline of Inclusive education

Module 1: Diversity in classrooms: Supportive and inclusive education

- Terms used when catering for students with special educational needs.
- The term 'inclusion' and its historical development.
- Identification of ways in which learning difficulties and disabilities impact on the learning of students.
- Insight into coping with a learning difficulty.

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Module 2: Assessment for learning

- How to determine a student's learning needs, using multiple sources of information.
- How to determine which form of assessment is appropriate for different learning tasks.
- The process of 'curriculum-based assessment'.

Module 3: Curriculum design and programming to support all students

- Different models of programming to support the learning of all students.
- Devise a model of programming and reflect on classroom practice.
- Understand the range of differentiation options available for meeting the needs of students with learning difficulties and disabilities.

Module 4: Individual Education Plans

- Purpose of Individual Education Plans (IEPs).
- How to manage the process of developing an IEP for a student.
- Identification strategies for involving others in the development of an IEP.
- Identification of school structures and processes that support the dynamic use of an IEP.

Module 5: Effective teaching and learning: Supporting all students (Part A)

- Processes for effective teaching.
- Meaning of 'effective instruction' and 'explicit teaching'.
- Strategies that can be used to enhance teaching and learning for students with learning difficulties and disabilities.
- Identification of the strategies that can be used in classrooms.

Module 6: Effective teaching and learning: Supporting all students (Part B)

- Processes for effective teaching.
- Strategies that can be used to enable effective teaching and learning.
- Understand what is meant by 'strategy instruction'.
- Identification of the strategies that can be used in classrooms.

Module 7: Monitoring, recording and reporting student learning

- Processes for monitoring and reporting student learning.
- How evidence from student learning may be used to evaluate the effectiveness of teaching.
- Processes for monitoring and recording.
- Identification of a range of reporting approaches that provide rich information to families about their children's learning.

Module 8: Working collaboratively with families, the school community and allied professionals

- The nature and value of collaborative relationships.
- Features of effective collaborative relationships.
- Ways of working with para educators.
- Ways of effectively collaborating with other educators and allied professionals.

Module 9: My school

- Reflect on the practices in your classroom and school.
- Develop an action plan for your classroom and school.
- Identify sources of support.

Other Unlocking the World professional development programs

- **Teaching ESL students in mainstream classrooms: Language in learning across the curriculum**
Understanding the role of language in learning
- **ESL in the mainstream for the early learner**
Critical role of adults in scaffolding children's learning
- **How language works: Success in literacy and learning**
A course that shows teachers how to work with students to use knowledge *about* language to become confident users *of* language across the curriculum
- **Gifted education and higher order thinking: Improving learning outcomes for every student**
Understanding and meeting the needs of gifted students
Incorporating for all students in everyday classrooms the teaching of higher order thinking and learning skills

You will find details of these programs at www.unlockingtheworld.com.

For more information:

ECD Publishing

Education Development Centre
Level 2, Milner Street, Hindmarsh
South Australia 5007
Email: admin@unlockingtheworld.com