

Activity 1- defining differentiation.

Objectives.

- To explore definitions of 'differentiation'
- To analyse an agreed definition

Whole class or group activity with plenary session.

Resources.

The following definition.

Differentiation is about:

"....identifying and addressing the different needs, interests and abilities of all learners to give them the best possible chance of achieving their learning goals."(Standards Unit, *Improving differentiation in business education*, DfES 2004)

- Ask the participants to work on their own and to write their own definition of 'differentiation'.
- Ask the participants to work in small groups and share their definitions and agree a group definition.
- Ask each group in turn to share their agreed group definition with the class.
- Discuss the similarities and differences in the definitions.

Share with the group the definition from the Standards Unit and spend some time discussing these key words and their significance.

Identifying

This stage is essential if individual needs are to emerge.

Addressing

Once needs, interests and abilities are identified, action needs to be taken to address them.

Needs, interests and abilities

Differentiation applies to all levels of learners. It's not a deficit model. All learners have particular needs, interests and abilities.

All learners

Differentiation should apply to all learners.

Achieving their learning goals

Differentiation is not an end in itself. It has a purpose – to help learners achieve and succeed.