

LESSON PLANNING

AND DIFFERENTIATION

All teachers plan their lessons – but not for the same reasons. Well planned lessons are mostly a personal learning tool of teachers; it allows them to make a clear plan that aligns learning objectives, learning methods and assessment criteria. Similarly, effective lesson planning allows elements of differentiation, meeting the needs of different types of learners. Differentiation in Finland is the practice of modifying and adapting instructions, materials, content, student projects and products, and assessment to meet the learning needs of individual students. Effective lesson planning takes differentiation into consideration.



LEARNING AIMS

In this module, the participants are introduced to a lesson planning model based on the constructive alignment concept by Prof. John B. Biggs. Participants will also learn basic elements of differentiation, how to evaluate which type of learning suits their students and how that can be transferred to lesson planning.

KOULU

THE PARTICIPANTS WILL:

- understand why and how Finnish teachers approach differentiation and lesson planning
- learn how to vary the level of content they present and the learning objectives they set
- get some ideas about the different ways students can show what they have learned
- understand what is meant by “difference between learners”
- learn different methods to apply differentiation (through task, groups, pace, resources, outcome, dialogue)
- learn how assessment and differentiation are linked in lesson planning.

THEY WILL ALSO CONSIDER:

- why lesson planning is an important factor in effective teaching
- how to set learning objectives, i.e. how to define what students should learn
- how to apply the S-K-A principle in lesson planning
- how to plan an effective lesson and related activities
- the differentiating factors between learners a teacher needs to take into account
- how and why differentiating instructions is the key to reaching all students.

After the training, all teachers are required to plan and execute a lesson using the new approach. They will share their plan and experience with other participants for continued development on the Community of Practice (CoP). In the CoP, the teachers get access to more example lessons they can use as basis for their own future lessons.