Are Your Wildflowers Wilting?

Strategies for Supporting Students with Special Needs

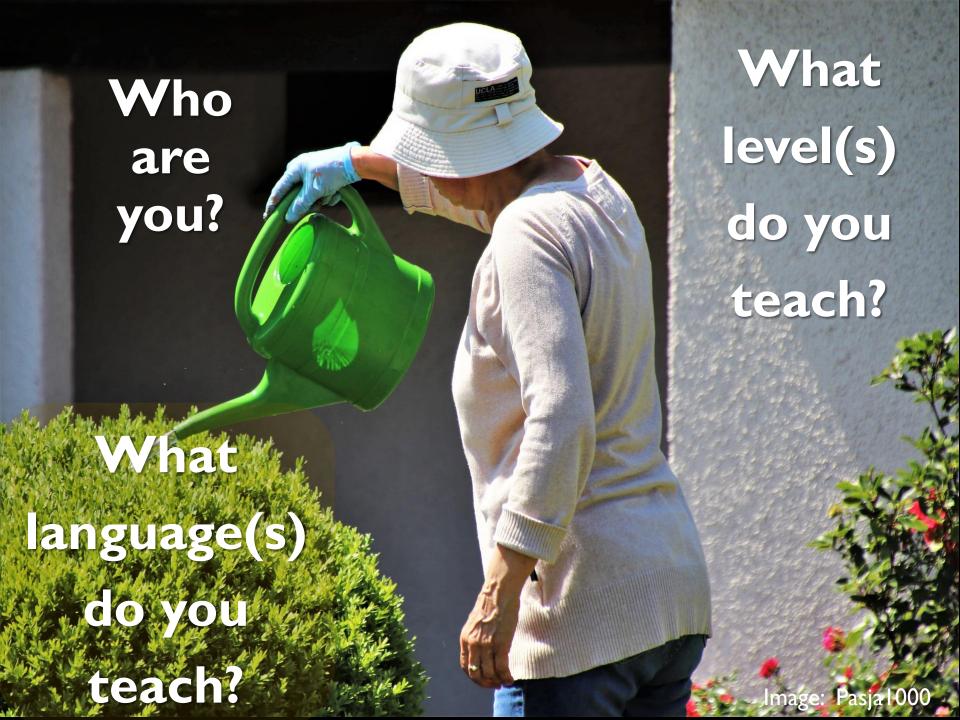
**UFLA 2021** 

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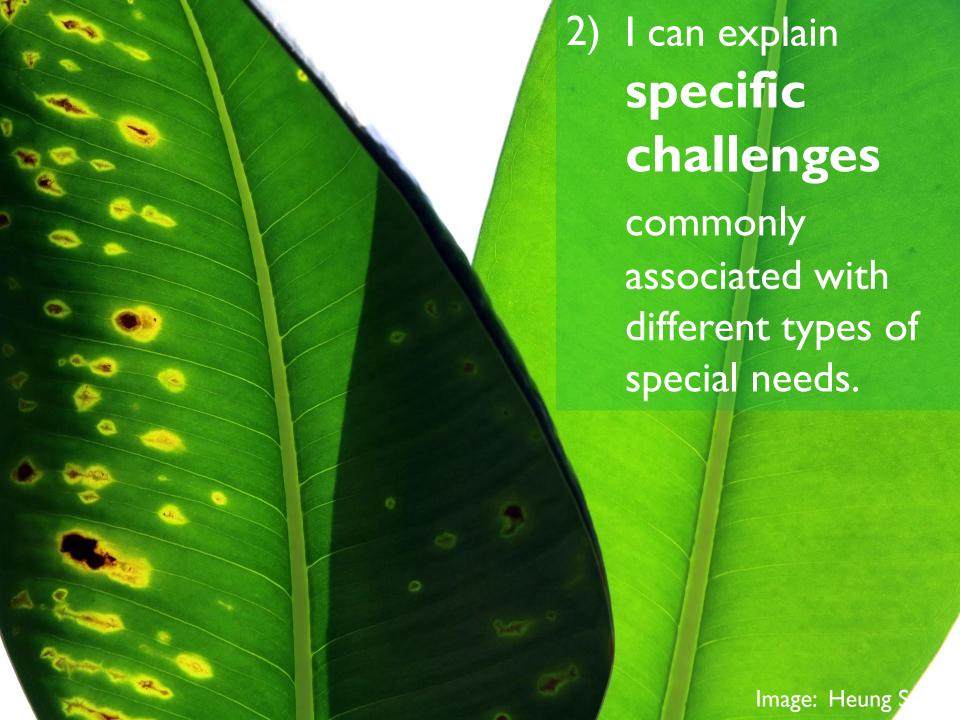














### **Website Materials**



Are Your Wildflowers Wilting? Strategies for Supporting Students with Special Needs (UFLA 2021): Supporting diverse learners who struggle due to unmet special needs is challenging. This session explores the unique strengths and challenges associated with different types of special needs (such as ADD/ADHD, anxiety and depression, giftedness, hearing impairments, and reading difficulties) and offers specific strategies for supporting these students in world language classes.

https://chericem.weebly.com/special-needs.html

### **Website Materials**



Handout

ACTEL 2020



PowerPoint

UFLA 2021

References

A bibliography of profusional antices and research influences

Digitine resources

References

### **Website Materials**



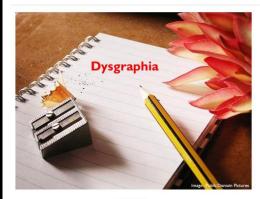
ADD/ADHD
(Attention & Focusing Challenges,
Strategies for ADD/ADHD



Strategies for Autism Spectrum



Behavioral Challenges
Strategies for Behavioral Challenges



Dysgraphia
Strategies for Dysgraphia



Strategies for Dyslexia



Ernotional Challenges
Strategies for Social Emotional Learning

https://chericem.weebly.com/special-needs.html

### Virtual Buzzword Bingo – Special Needs

#### Instructions:

- Read each term.
- Mark each box with at least one symbol:

✓ = Yes, I have these students in my classes

= No, I don't have these students

? = I am not sure if I have these students

苯 = These students are my biggest concern

### Example:

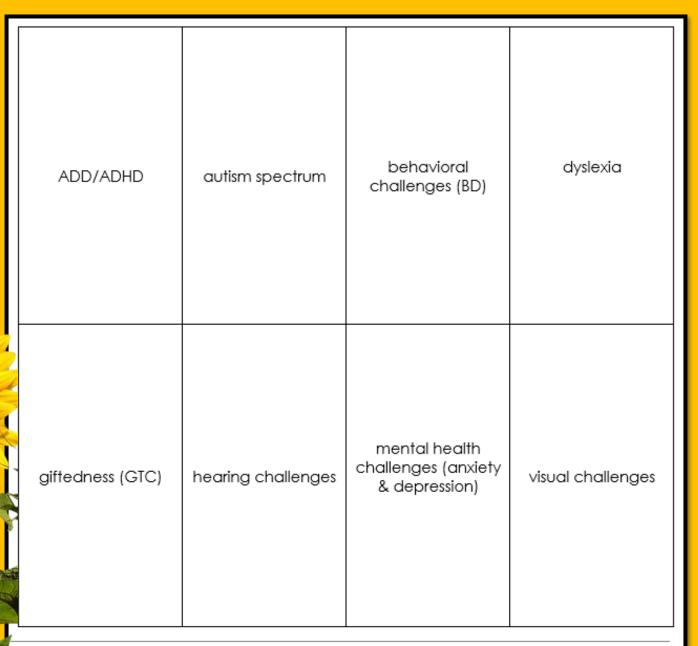
speech challenges



You have 2 minutes!







Buzzword Bingo: Students with Special Needs ♦ 2021 ♦ Cherice Montgomery, Ph.D. ♦ cherice\_montgomery@byu.edu

Images: Capri23auto & Cherice Montgomery



## Name as many different flowers as you can in 15 seconds



Images: Beverly Buckley, Karin Herzog, Kito32, Maja7777, Vitoria Murakami Olyntho, Rene Rauschenberger, Romewo, Stux, Atiqur Sumon, Regina Woelk, Thomas Wolter, Zorro4, 8926



### Students are like flowers because...





Students in my Barden

14% IEPs

- ADHD
- Color blind
  - Dyslexia
- Gifted
- Health challenges
- Hearing challenges
- Heritage speakers
- Learning challenges
- Native Speakers
- Physical challenges
- Visual challenges

Image: Gerd Altmann

**Urban Public HS (6A)** 



It is illogical to plant a sunflower seed and then expect a rose to grow.

Images: Regina Woelk & Thomas Wolter

The goal is not to help learners become more "normal," but rather to help them become their best selves.



One way to do that is to put yourself in their shoes.



Images: Terri Cnudde



"Imagine going to work and not being able to do your job.

Now imagine that you can't leave your job.

Imagine having to do that every day.

This is what life is like for children with learning disabilities."

(Dr. David Urion, Director, Neurology and Learning Disabilities Program, Children's Hospital, Boston)







Image: Ren Soley



One of them was a rose who had many special needs.

One day, he decided he was tired of catering to her "whims," and he went to explore other planets.







On each planet, he met someone new, and quickly discovered that each one, although unique, still had similar needs.

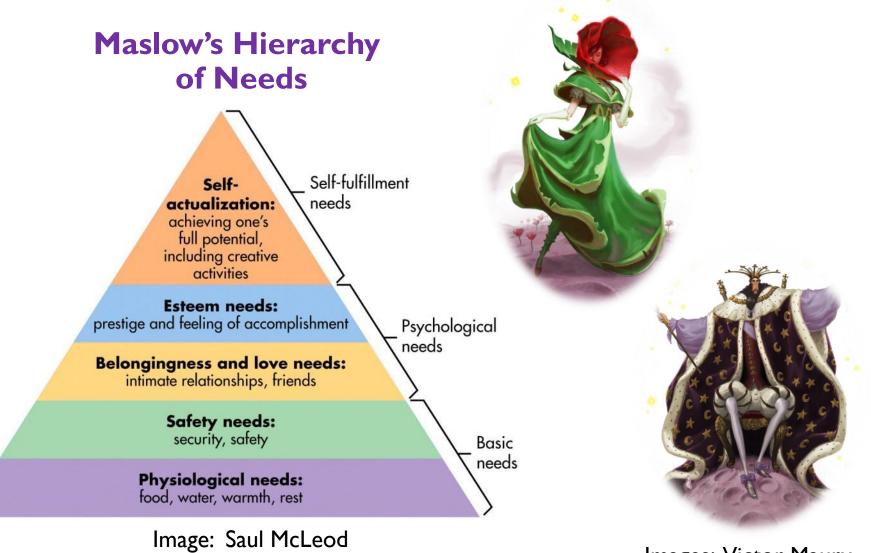






Images: Victor Maury

### Each learner has common needs



Images: Victor Maury

Each learner also has unique challenges that require specific types of care

ALL of us have special needs!



When students don't receive the care they need, they may grow "thorns" to protect themselves

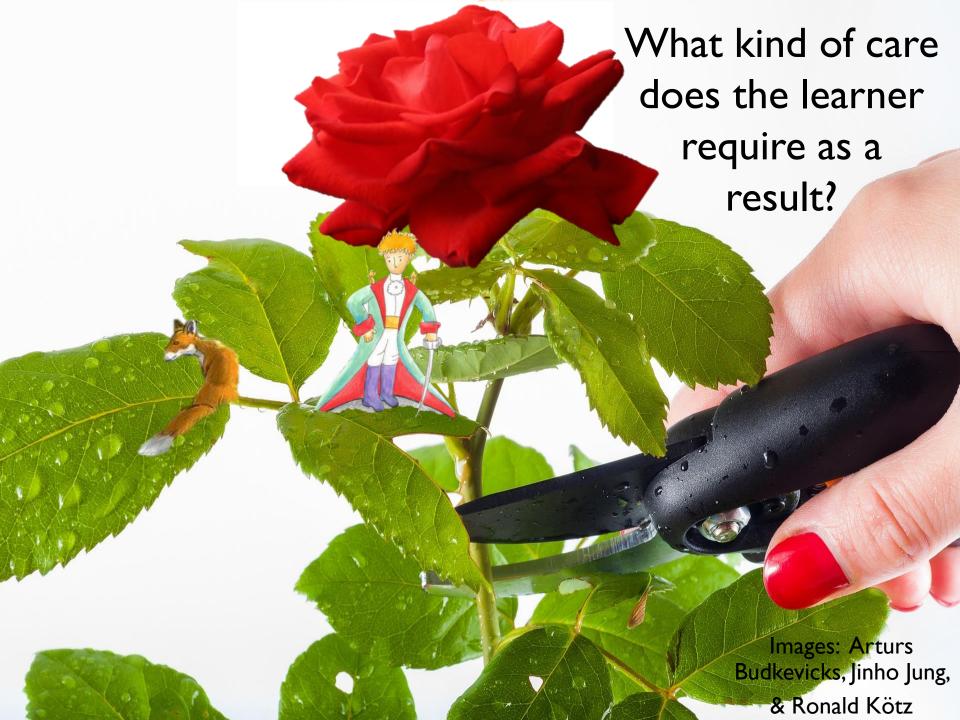


Every strength also has a shadow. It is often more effective to build on learners' strengths rather than to do battle with the shadows their challenges may create.











# How might the learner's strengths help them overcome their specific challenges?



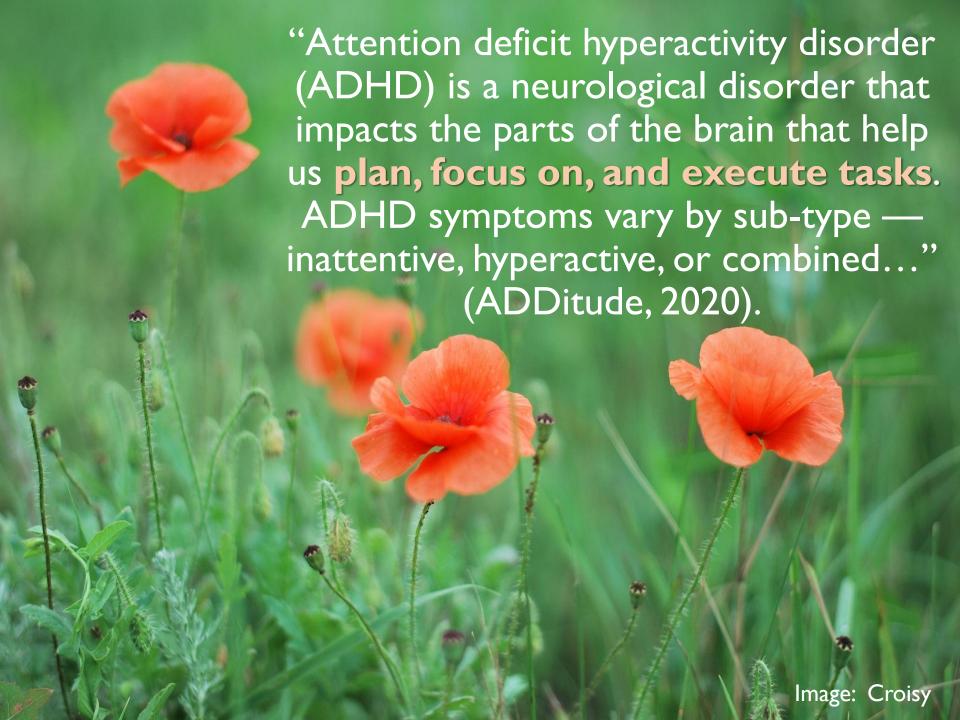


### Challenges for Students with ADD/ADHD

- Anxiety
- Attention/focus
- Complexity & accuracy in FL speaking/writing (Doyle, 2020)
  - Emotional regulation
  - Following directions
  - Impulse control (interrupting, talking a lot)
    - Prioritizing and organizing
    - Remembering info.
    - Self-esteem
    - Sitting still
    - Task completion
    - Transitions

(Appalachia Educational Laboratory, 2020)





# Strengths of Students with ADHD

- Associative information storage
- Conceptual understanding
- Creativity & innovation
- Keen observation and problem-solving skills
- High levels of energy, curiosity, & initiative
- Multiple interests
- Rapid cognitive processing
- Sensitive & helpful



Help visualize what "done" looks like

Make progress visible

(public praise and private feedback)

Strategies for Supporting Students with ADHD

Active learning & activity breaks

Divide content into chunks

Deliver info. & help content with through all organization

5 senses

Support self-esteem

Reduce distractions (seating)

Image: Photosforyou

Does your classroom environment make ADHD symptoms better or worse?

"ADHD is not like strep throat, which one either has or doesn't have; instead, the severity and consequences of ADHD symptoms relate to environmental demands on behavior" (Appalachia Educational Laboratory, 2020).

## **Brain Breaks**



Image: UJU Videos

## **Brain Breaks**











Strengths
of Students
with Autism
Spectrum
Disorder

Analysis Innovative problem-

Adherence to systems and processes

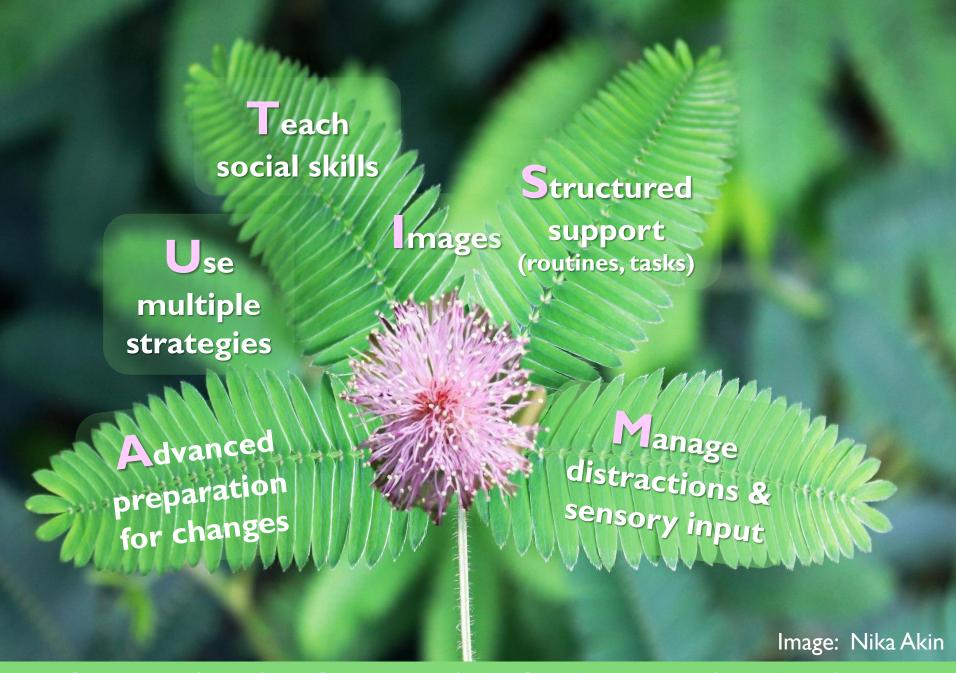


## Carly's Café

What are some of the challenges Carly experiences and how might they impact her in a classroom setting?



Image: Carly Fleischmann



Strategies for Supporting Students with Autism



# Classroom Noise Meter: Too Loud



Image: Idea43

## Classroom Noise Meters (Free)



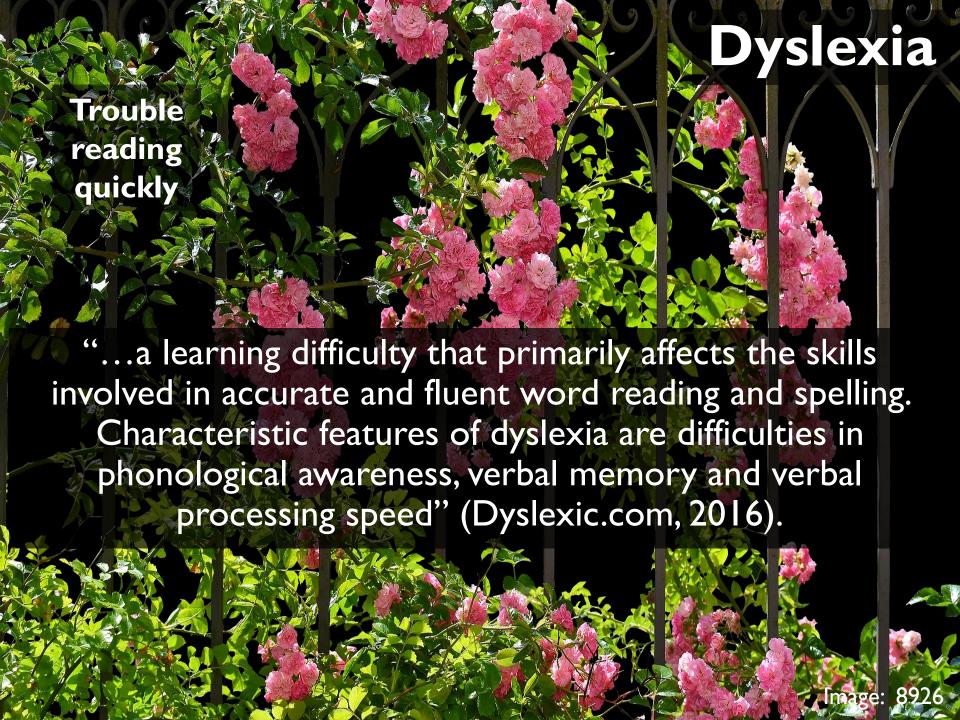
Use Classcraft's Volume Meter

Monitor your classroom noise levels in seconds and make students accountable for keeping their classroom quiet.

TRY IT NOW

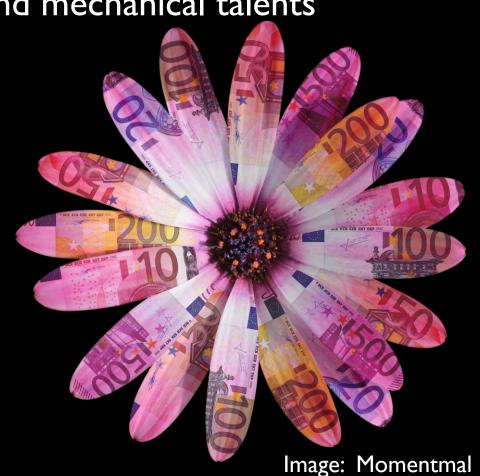


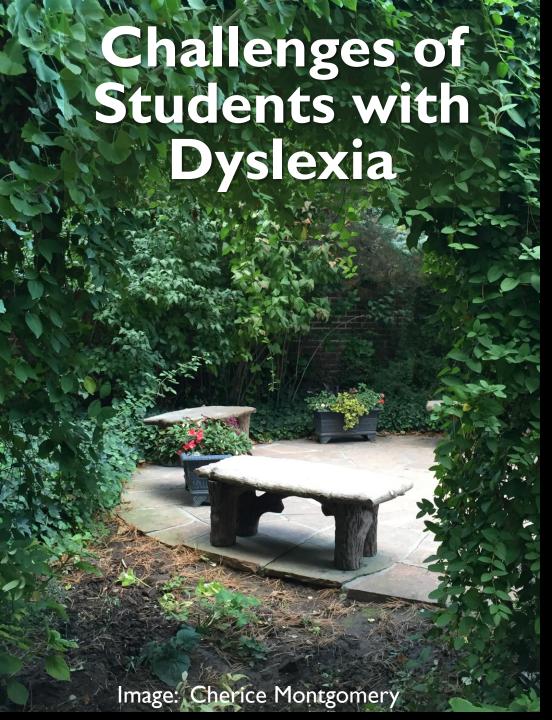




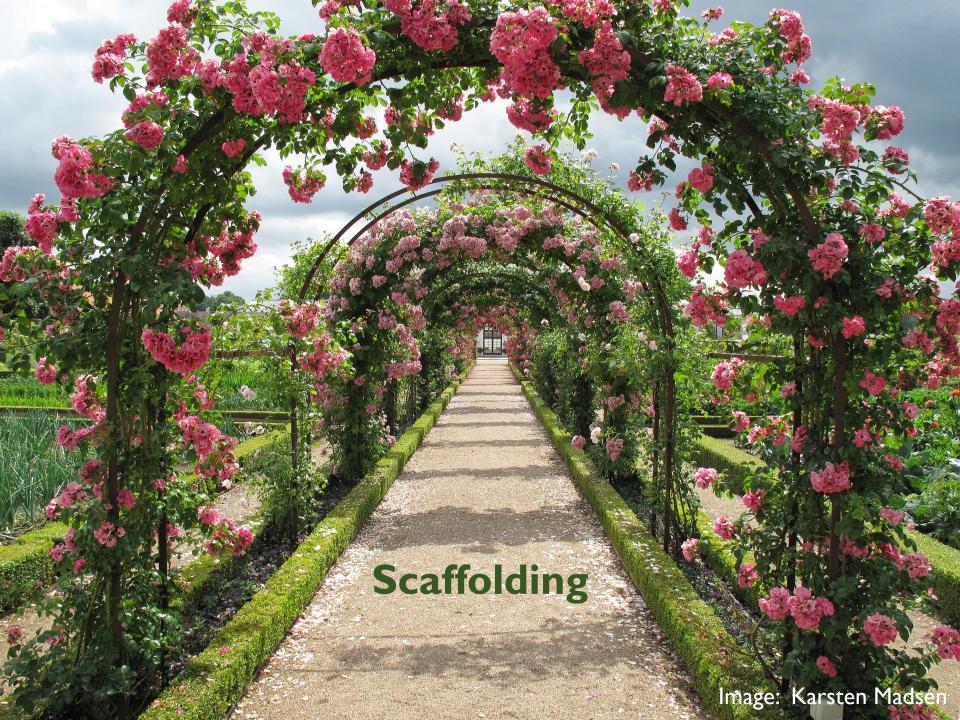
# Strengths of Students with Dyslexia

- Athletic, artistic, musical, and mechanical talents
- Creativity and imagination
- Curiosity
- Intuition
- Lateral thinking
- Problem-solving
- Synthesis
- Visual/spatial skills (3D)



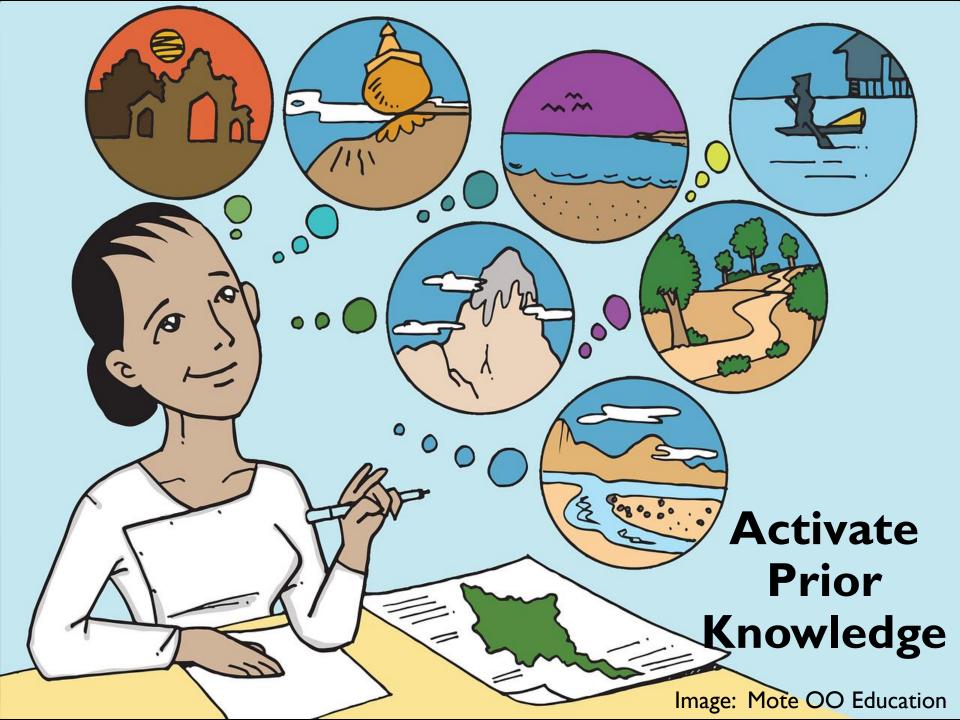


- Automaticity
- Decoding words
- Differentiating left from right
- Note-taking
- Processing sounds (phonological processing)
- Rapid word recognition
- Reading, writing, and spelling
- Sequencing
- Short term (working) memory
- Trouble copying



# Strategies for Supporting Students with Dyslexia

- Develop compensatory strategies
- Yes to frequent breaks
- Support executive functioning & self-esteem
- Limit copying tasks and corrections to only the most essential
- Encourage and engage (stimulate dopamine release through challenges, competitions, fun, novelty, playing videogames that require reading to move forward)
- Xtra time for reading and tests
- Integrate images and interactive, multisensory methods/materials
  - Audiobooks, advanced organizers, advanced notice of in-class reading, affirmations (Pokrivcakova, 2020)



## Self-esteem Journals

#### Self-Esteem Journal Something I did well today... MON. Today I had fun when... I felt proud when... Today I accomplished.. I had a positive experience Something I did for someone... I felt good about myself when... I was proud of someone else... Today was interesting because... I felt proud when... A positive thing I witnessed... Today I accomplished... Something I did well today... I had a positive experience with (a person, place, or thing)... I was proud of someone when.. Today I had fun when... Something I did for someone... I felt good about myself when... A positive thing I witnessed... Today was interesting because... I felt proud when... @ 2014 Therapist Aid LLC Provided by TherapistAid.com

#### Diario de Autoestima Algo que hice bien hoy fue.. Hov me divertí cuando... Me sentí orgulloso cuando.. Hoy he logrado... Tuve una experiencia positiva Algo que hice para alguien Me sentí bien cuando... Sentí orgulloso por alguien... Hoy fue interesante porque... Me sentí orgulloso cuando... Algo positivo que vi fue... Hoy he logrado.. Algo que hice bien hoy fue... Tuve una experiencia positiva Sentí orgulloso por alguien... Hov me divertí cuando... Algo que hice para alguien Me sentí bien cuando... Algo positivo que vi fue... Hoy fue interesante porque.. Me sentí orgulloso cuando... @ 2014 Therapist Aid LLC Provided by TherapistAid.com

Images: Therapist Aid LLC

# Multisensory Instruction





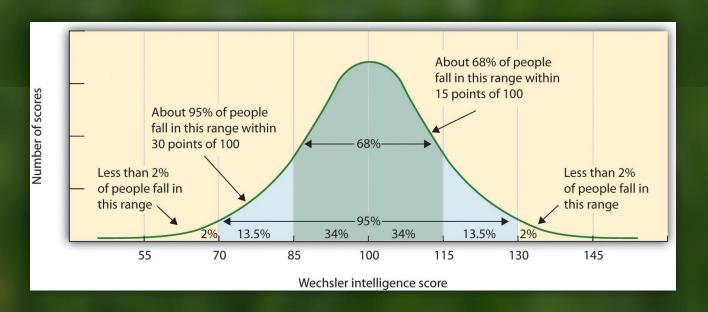
# Your Turn

What are your favorite strategies for supporting students with dyslexia?

Image: R Winkelmann



# How schools define "giftedness"



IQ Gifted Talented Creative Extreme 2%

Giftedness does not always equal high achievement or stellar performance

Image: Monsterkoi



Information: Candice Martin & Shen-Li Li 🌣 Image: Dagmar Räder



## Characteristics of Giftedness



- Anxiety
- Boredom
- Emotional regulation
- Existential depression
- Fear of failure
- Imposter syndrome
- Intensity
- Perfectionism
- Procrastination
- Relationships
- Self-criticism
- Self-doubt

# Challenges of Giftedness





Gifted learners also need teachers to nourish their growth

Image: Conger Design

# Strategies for Working with Giftedness



Invite independent, interdisciplinary, intellectual inquiry

Focus on feedback

Tell them growth takes **time** (patience & persistence)

Encourage with emotional support

Develop depth of understanding through multiple perspectives

Narrow their need to explore

Encourage an **environment** of play, mistakes, and risk-taking

Support self-care & social skills

Sustain small steps

Image: Pezibear

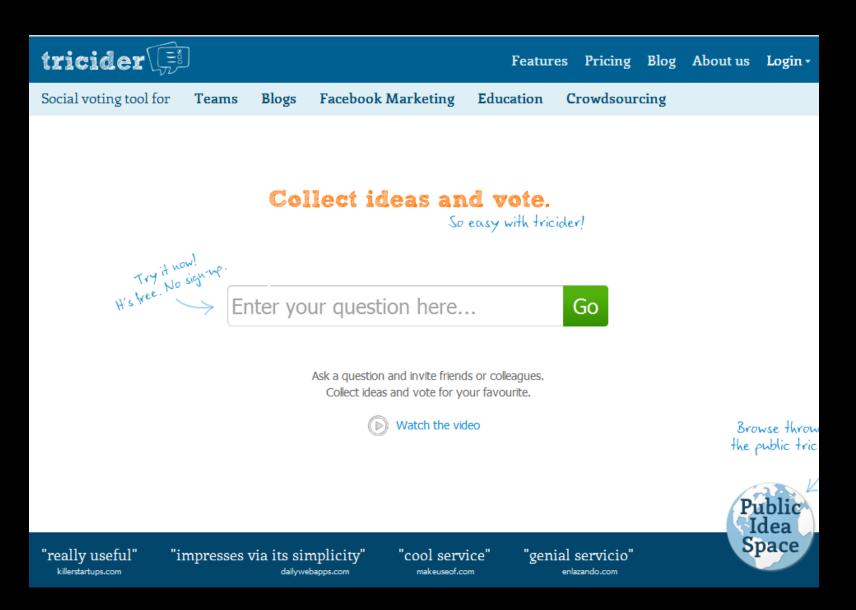


Giving gifted students more work faster or having them "help" slower students are NOT appropriate accommodations, instead try....



Image: Franky Syggy





## Brainstorm Content (Arguments): Tricider

Image: Tricider



# What are your favorite strategies for supporting students with special needs in your classes?

14 days left

- 1) Read the question.
- 2) Think of at least three answers.
- 3) Click the green "Add idea" button.
- 4) Type one of your answers.
- 5) Click submit and repeat the process.

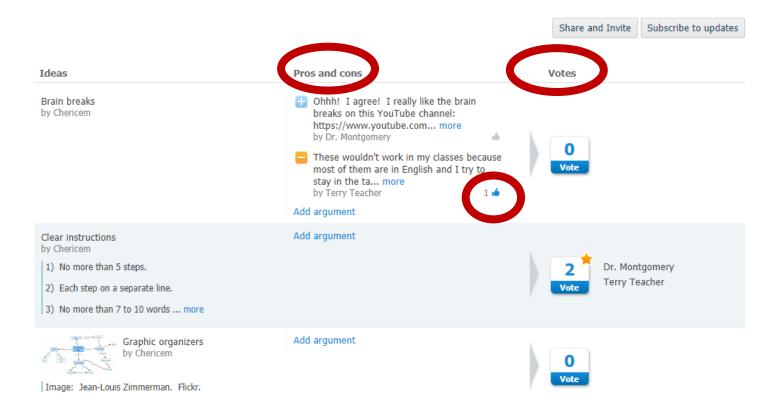




Image: Ronny Overhate



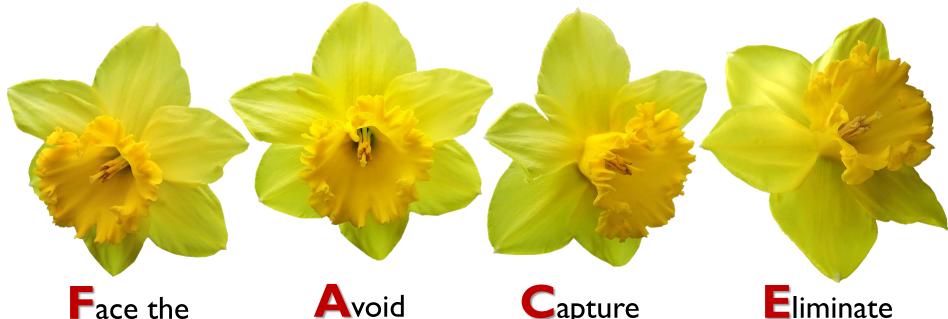


# Challenges for Learners who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

- Background noise
- Classroom discussions
- Class set-up
- Cognitive load
- Fitting in
- Following class discussions
- Listening fatigue
- Oral reports
- Partner/small group work
- Poor lighting
- Reading & writing with academic language
- Taking notes



Always...



student

Avoid covering your mouth

Capture attention before speaking

external noise & insist on silence before speaking

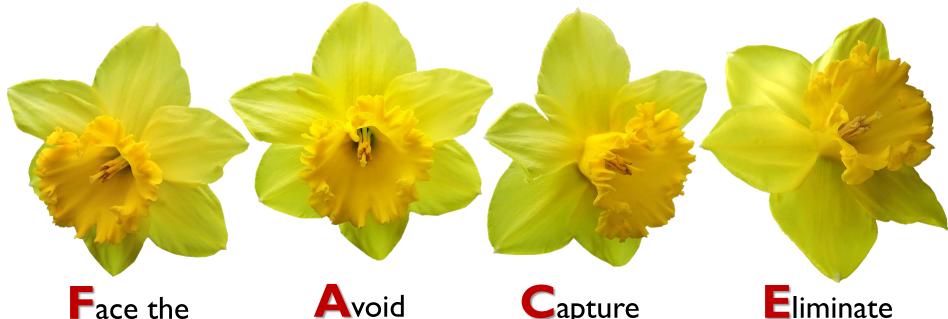
# ...your students!

Image: Beverly Buckley





Always...



student

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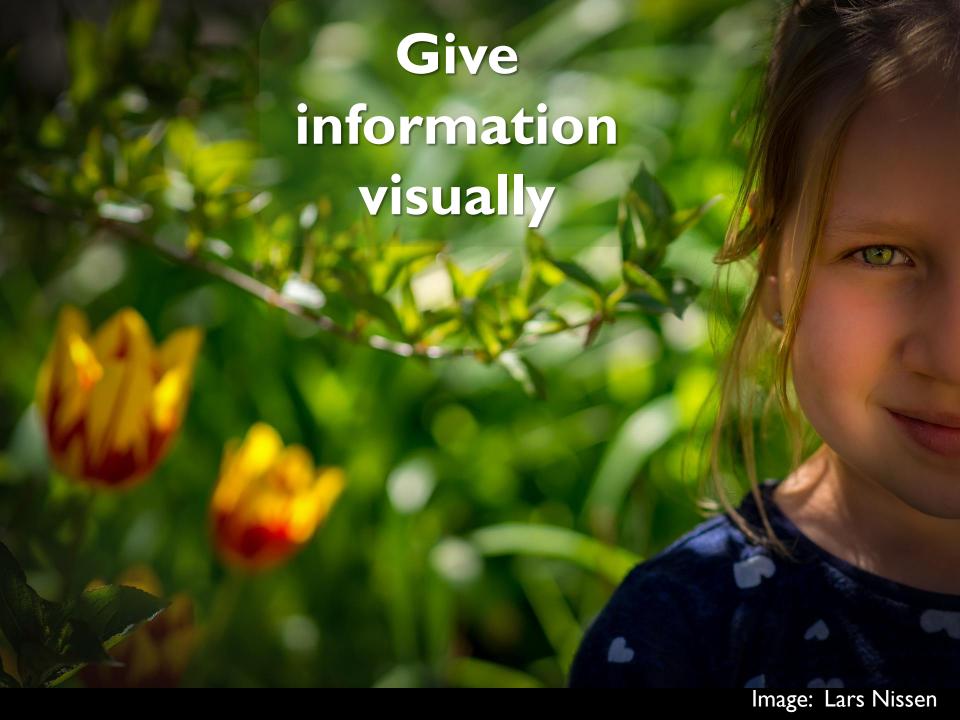
# ...your students!

Image: Beverly Buckley









### **Supporting the Hearing Impaired**

- Have the student sit near the front away from high traffic areas where others come between the student and an interpreter
- Establish routines and procedures
- Always FACE the student
- Repeat peer responses
- Include processing time for visuals (i.e., don't give instructions between activities, when showing an image, or while writing)
- Note-taker or closed captioning











### **Acquiring Vocabulary**

Identify or Create Rich Descriptions							
	Concept Ladder	B	•				
	Making Connections Donut 1	B	•				
Categorize Vocabulary, Information							
	Vocabulary: Categories	B	•				
	Vocabulary: Connections	B	•				
	The T-Chart	B	•				
	Structured Overview	B	2				
Define Vocabulary							
	Vocabulary: Definitions	Ē	•				

Image: ACTFL

# Idea Rating Sheet

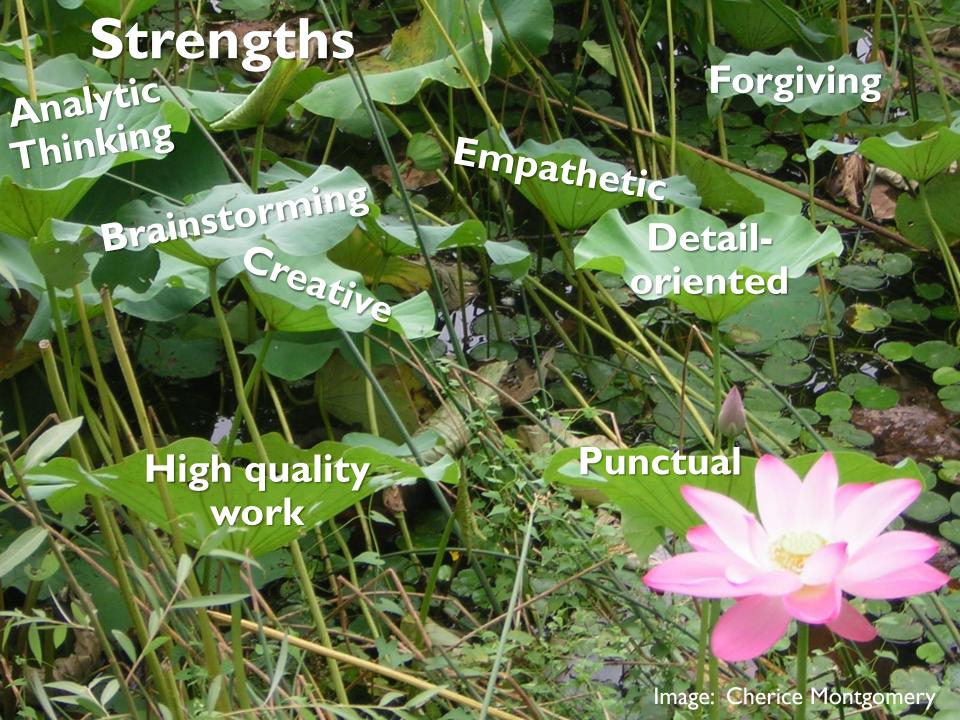
Write one idea here in large letters:							
	_		_				
Do you agree? Fill your one dot below & sign on the right:							
(::)	(::)	(**)	('')	(**)	(?)		
Strong	Agreement	Noutral	Diagrapment	Strong			
Strong Agreement	Agreement	Neutral	Disagreement	Strong Disagreement	Confusion		
0000000000	0000000000	0000000000	0000000000	0000000000	000000000		
0000000000	0000000000	0000000000	0000000000	0000000000	0000000000		
0000000000	0000000000	0000000000	000000000	0000000000	0000000000		
Strengths & Opportunities Concerns & Weaknesses							
				I	maga: lacan	Dicoman	
Sheet #	Date:	Organiz	ation/Event:		IdeaRat	ingSheets.org	

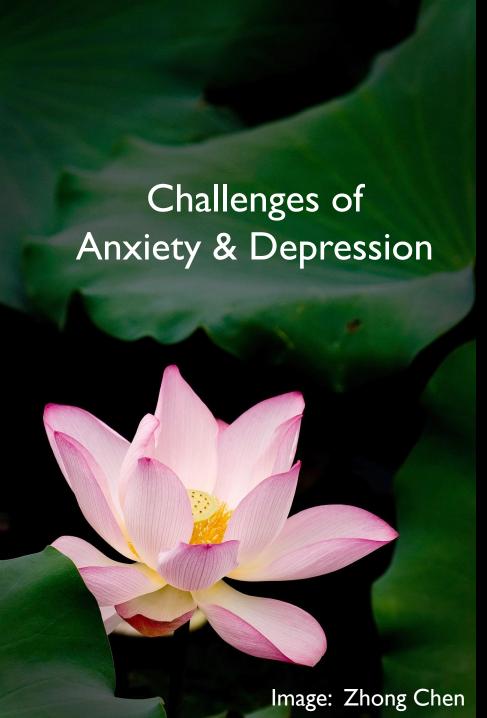
Image: CongerDesign











- Binary thinking (always, never)
- Catastrophizing
- Fatigue/insomnia
- Fear
- Fixed mindset
- Imposter syndrome
- Inability to say no
- Lack of motivation
- Overthinking/rumination
- People pleasing
- Perfectionism
- Physical symptoms
- Possible substance abuse
- Procrastination



Image: DarkWorkX



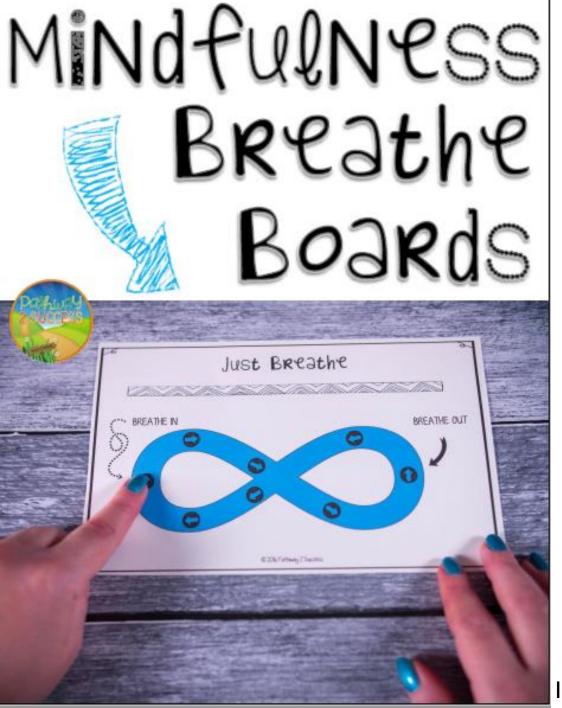


Image: Kristina Scully



# Students with Visual Challenges



"...vision between 20/70 and 20/400 with the best possible correction, or a visual field of 20 degrees or less" (Mandal, 2019)

Image: Digital Photo and Design

Creativity Strengths of Learners Listening with Visual Memory Challenges Spatial Awareness & Touch Image: Nika Akin



- Accessibility
- Copying tasks
- Eye strain/fatigue
- Mobility
- Poor lighting & glare
- Small print
- Test-taking
- Understanding visuals

Ima Image: Ian Lindsay

# Supports for Learners with Vision Challenges

- Variety of supports—auditory, kinesthetic, multimodal, and tactile (such as concrete manipulatives or physical models)
- Increase oral activities & give individual copies of whiteboard notes
- Seating near front of room, keep floors clear
- Universally designed websites (meet web accessibility standards)
- Audio books & recordings of instructions, texts, and tests (iPod)
   (can be embedded into worksheets)
- Lighting and large, dark print with extra spacing









# What should you consider when planning your garden?

Image: Marikuke





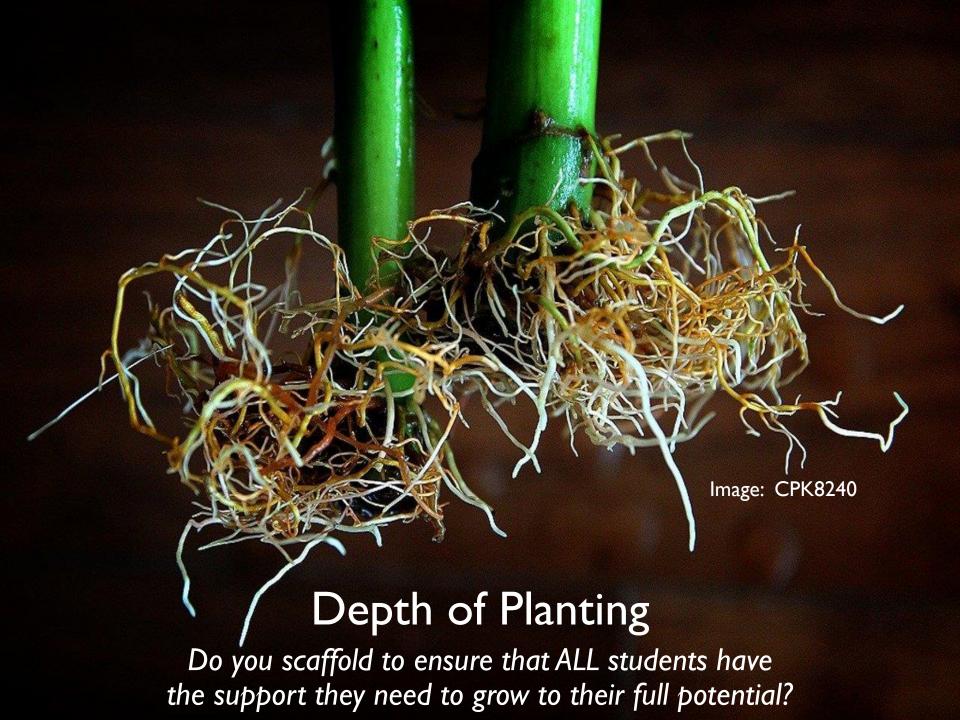




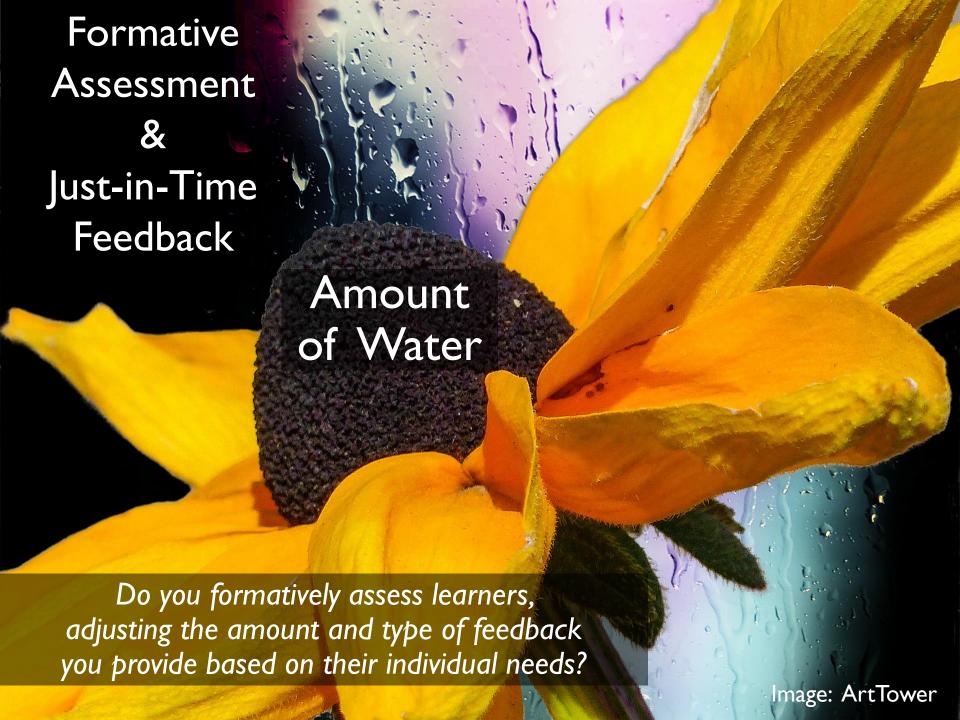


Image: Pezibear









## **Time to Germination**

Some seeds take longer than others to sprout, become securely rooted, and bloom.



## Focus on what learners CAN do!



Image: Anncapictures







## The Little Prince & The Rose



We are roses.

Image: Renato Arap



## Judging

When we plant a rose seed in the earth, we notice that it is small, but we do not criticize it as "rootless and stemless." We treat it as a seed, giving it the water and nourishment required of a seed.

When it first shoots up out of the earth, we don't condemn it as immature and underdeveloped: nor do we criticize the buds for not being open when they appear. We stand in wonder at the process taking place and give the plant the care it needs at each stage of its development.

The rose is a rose from the time it is a seed to the time it dies. Within it, at all times, it contains its whole potential. It seems to be constantly in the process of change: yet at each state, at each moment, it is perfectly all right as it is.

--W.Timothy Gallwey

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