

# 9 TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE INDIVIDUALIZED LESSON PLANS

Children learn best when learning opportunities match their interests and individual abilities. Individualized lesson plans and instruction are critical to reach each child. We do not learn all the same way, and we should not teach each child the same way.

The following are nine tips for effective lesson planning individualization:

## OBSERVATION

Through observation, I identify each child's interests, areas of strengths, and areas they need to work on. This includes creative skills, language arts, math, health & safety & physical development, science, social & personal skills, and social studies.

## SPECIFIC GOALS

Once I have done my observations, I start developing specific goals for each child. I begin to create goals for each of the areas of development.

## CONFIDENTIALITY

It is very important to maintain confidentiality at all times. I always post my weekly lesson plan on the family board - but my individualized goals and lesson plan is only for my team's eyes.

## STRATEGIES

When you have done observations and have gotten to know your children, you can identify which teaching strategies would be most effective for them.

## flexibility

I'm always flexible when creating my individualized lesson plans. I can intend to apply a specific strategy for a child but it may not work. This happens sometimes, although the observation done initially could minimize it.

## engagement

Provide engaging activities for the children. Young children learn through play; therefore, planning fun, engaging games and activities attracts children to join in and explore.

## balance

When lesson planning balance teacher-directed and child-directed activities and discussions. Take turns with your young learners and allow them to initiate learning activities.

## VARIETY

Provide a variety of activities and materials to work on children's specific goals. Variety can be accomplished in different ways. Try different times of the day, different learning materials, different teaching strategies, etc.

# Teach & Adapt

This tip is the one I consider the most important: teach and adapt!

Now that you have taken all of these tips and best practices into consideration, it's time for the best part: TEACH! Be aware that you must be willing to adapt. The lesson plan you've spent all weekend in creating did not work--that's ok! You must do a self-evaluation on your teaching and adapt to the child and the circumstances.

## Reference:

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<http://www.prekpartner.com/2016/09/9-tips-for-effective-individualized.html>