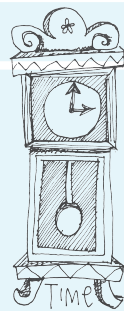


How Can You Be Flexible?

CAN YOU MODIFY THE TIME?

- Tweak something in the scope and sequence you teach to better fit your students' needs.
- Change up the amount of time you devote to a given lesson—sometimes this means zooming through material and sometimes this means lingering with the same lesson for a few days.
- For example: Mollie knew that her children were skilled narrative writers based on reading their work. She shortened her narrative writing unit by a week to build in a week of independent writing projects.



CAN YOU MODIFY THE TEACHING STRUCTURE?

- Try different teaching structures such as whole-group, small-group, or one-on-one conferences depending on exactly which students need a given lesson.
- Determine if guided practice, demonstration, or inquiry would best fit the situation.
- For example: Chris decided not to tell his first-grade students what kinds of eggs they were hatching like the other teachers on his grade team had done. Instead, he brought in pictures and books and had the children build theories and debate the possibilities.



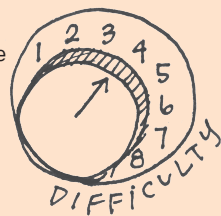
CAN YOU MODIFY TO BRING IN YOUR STUDENTS' INTERESTS?

- Give students choice—about math problems, books they're reading, writing topics, everything!—as much as possible.
- Notice that most of the class is obsessed with Star Wars/Minecraft/Pokemon/the Olympics? Incorporate those interests in your lessons as much as you can.
- For example: Anna noticed her children's obsession with Minecraft so she borrowed books on the topic from the library for independent reading, and crafted math lessons using the principles of the game.



CAN YOU MODIFY THE DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY?

- Differentiate your teaching based on what your students really need. Find ways to reinforce the lesson for students who need more support and extend the lesson for students who need more challenge. Don't be worried if this seems challenging—it's one of the hardest parts of teaching, and we have much more on differentiation in Section 4.
- For example: Jack knew his math lesson on solving story problems used large numbers. He created three versions for independent practice so that children could practice the skill (solving story problems) on numbers within their comfort level.



CAN YOU MODIFY THE MATERIALS?

- Think about what materials would really engage and thrill your students. Think nice pens for writing, whiteboard and erasers for math, up-to-date books for guided reading, and do your best to bring them into your classroom.
- Create materials (charts, personal word walls, visual schedules) that give students something to refer back to.
- For example: Mira made a new alphabet chart for her students based on vocabulary they knew and loved.

