ECHO IDAHO

K12 Supporting Students with Autism

Universal Design for Learning: Making Education Accessible to all

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Learning Objectives

- Understand the purpose of Universal Design for Learning (UDL)

- Understand the importance of UDL for students with disabilities

- Identify the three principles of UDL

Introduction to Universal Design for Learning (UDL)

- **What is UDL?**
  - Educational framework designed to meet the needs of all learners.
  - Offers multiple means of engagement, representation, and expression.

- **Importance of UDL**
  - Supports diverse learners
  - Creates inclusive learning environments.

Universal Design Beyond Education

A design philosophy that promotes accessibility for all people, regardless of ability or status.

Examples

- Ramps, wide doorways, automatic doors, and accessible restrooms.

- Inclusive playgrounds, adaptive tools in public libraries, tactile maps.

The Three Principles of UDL

Principles of UDL

- Multiple Means of Engagement

- Multiple Means of Representation

- Multiple Means of Action and Expression

Multiple Means of Engagement

What is it?

• Providing different ways to motivate and engage students.

Why It Matters

• Students have different interests, needs, and emotional responses.

Example

• Offering choices in assignments or using gamification.

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Multiple Means of Representation

What is it?

- Presenting information in various formats (visual, auditory, kinesthetic).

Why It Matters

- Learners process information differently.

Example

- Using text, images, videos, and audio for better understanding.

Multiple Means of Action and Expression

What is it?

- Allowing students to demonstrate knowledge in diverse ways.

Why It Matters

- Students express their learning differently.

Example

- Choices between writing a report, creating a video, or giving an oral presentation.

UDL Lesson Example

The Life-Cycle of a Butterfly

"When a flower doesn't bloom,
you fix the environment in which
it grows, not the flower."

— Alexander den Heijer

Resources

- UDL Guidelines Cast

- Open Access UDL Resources