



# QUICK GUIDE FOR SCHOOLS





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## 1. Introduction

Here's a quick guide on pedagogical mediation for inclusive education tailored for teachers and students in the whole education community, including goals, aims, advice, a tool, a summary of the target group, and guidelines. This guide is an annexe to the "**PEDAGOGICAL MEDIATION 4ALL- INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE**" handbook.

What is a quick guide for mediation in schools? School mediation is a process where individuals within the school framework try to resolve conflicts and disputes. In this guide, we'll focus on empowering teachers and students to engage in effective mediation, promoting understanding, collaboration, and a positive learning environment.

Pedagogical mediation for inclusive education in schools involves the use of strategies, techniques, and approaches to ensure that all students, including those with diverse abilities and backgrounds, have equal opportunities to learn and participate in the educational process. Inclusive education aims to create a supportive and welcoming environment where every student feels valued and can reach his/her full potential.

### 1.1 Target-group

The target group of the guide **are teachers and students**. This is a quick guide for schools. The target group using this guide are primary teachers, head teachers and pedagogical experts. This outcome is a quick reference guide to assist in learning mediation. The materials developed here aim to ensure that school inclusion and collaborative learning contribute to learning success. Focus groups were conducted with self-advocates for this guide. This provides an authentic insight for learning facilitators and learners. Knowledge: Professional training covering the basics and contents of the diversity of learning difficulties and disabilities is a precondition.

### 1.1 Goal

This guide is intended to enable teachers and the whole education community to support learners to achieve their pedagogical aims and to find support in the development of conflict resolution skills and a better communication between teachers and students.



## Teachers profile

### Teachers have

- competencies and knowledge related to diversity and disabilities,
- a range of teaching methods.
- technical skills.
- good time and space management skills.

### Teachers can

- listen actively.
- think critically and creatively; and
- teachers are able to stimulate critical and creative thinking.

### Teachers are

- flexible and adaptable
- empathetic
- Active supporters
- patient
- Open-minded



## 2. Methods, tips, recommendations

The point methods, tips, recommendations reflect the collected results of the focus group discussion. Here are some key principles and strategies for pedagogical mediation in inclusive education. The following steps are described in detail.

### Recommendation:

- ✓ [8 key principles and strategies for pedagogical mediation in inclusive education.](#)

### 1. Understanding and valuing diversity

- Teachers should have a deep understanding and appreciation for the diversity of their students, including different abilities, learning styles, and cultural backgrounds.
- Recognize and celebrate the uniqueness of each student, fostering a positive and inclusive classroom culture.

### 2. Differentiated teaching

- Implement differentiated teaching strategies to meet the varied needs of students in the same classroom.
- Adapt content, process, and assessment to accommodate different learning styles and abilities.

### 3. Collaborative learning

- Encourage collaborative learning experiences where students work together in diverse groups.
- Foster a sense of community and mutual support among students, promoting peer learning and understanding.

### 4. Universal Design for Learning (UDL)

- Apply the principles of Universal Design for Learning, creating instructional materials and environments that are accessible to all students.
- Provide multiple means of representation, engagement, and expression to address diverse learning needs.

### 5. Individualized education plans (IEPs) and personalized learning

- Develop and implement individualized education plans for students with special needs, outlining specific goals, accommodations, and support services.
- Embrace personalized learning approaches that allow students to progress at their own pace and according to their individual needs.



## 6. Professional development:

- Ensure that teachers receive ongoing professional development on inclusive education practices.
- Foster a collaborative culture where educators can share insights and strategies for meeting the diverse needs of students.

## 7. Parent and community involvement

- Involve parents and the community in the education process, fostering a supportive network for students with diverse needs.
- Collaborate with specialists and support services to provide additional resources and expertise.

## 8. Promoting social and emotional learning

- Integrate social and emotional learning into the curriculum to create a positive and inclusive school climate.
- Teach empathy, tolerance, and respect to help students understand and appreciate differences.

### Practical activity:

Pedagogical mediation in inclusive education requires a commitment to ongoing learning, flexibility, and a student-centred approach. It involves adapting teaching practices to meet the diverse needs of all learners and creating an environment where every student and teachers should act as following steps:

- ✓ [4-Steps for pedagogical mediation of inclusive education.](#)

#### Step 1:

**ActiveListening:** Encourage participants to listen attentively and empathetically to each other to truly understand perspectives and concerns.

#### Step 2:

**Stay neutral and unbiased:** Emphasize the importance of impartiality and fairness in the mediation process, allowing both parties to feel heard and respected.

#### Step 3:

**Focus on solutions:** Guide participants to brainstorm and collaboratively identify potential solutions that meet the needs of all involved parties.

#### Step 4:



**Respect and empathy:** Promote a respectful and understanding environment, where participants acknowledge each other's feelings and viewpoints without judgment.

- ✓ How can you provide additional efficient support?  
Practical tips are provided below.

**Practical tips:**

- Advice for effective communication/mediation and relationship building
- Active support in establishing contacts (with classmate and peers),
- Active support in maintaining contact.
- Active support in shared learning
- Active support in social learnings
- Active support with problems
- Active support with parents, family members, caregivers.

- ✓ How to communicate?

**Practical tips of communication:**

As in all areas, communication between people is very important, below are the key points of successful communication.

- Communicate appreciatively and at eye level.
- Communicate and act respectfully.
- Problem-project oriented communication
- Person-centred communication
- Using networks/channels for communication
- Non-violent communication

- ✓ How should the materials be prepared?

**Practical tips:**

**Teaching and learning materials.**

- Offer and provide effective support methods.
- Flexible structuring of the lessons
- Adapted materials according to learning needs.

**Practical exercises and activities**

- Learning by doing
- This puts what is learnt into practice
- Increases retention of what is learned
- Seeing a result in the implementation



### **Methods for inclusive group work**

- Example: Shared activities and group work
- Fun factor

## **3. Summary**

The result is a quick guide to support learning mediation. The materials developed here are designed to ensure that school inclusion and co-operative learning contribute to learning success.

To summarise, the teacher should have competences related to the diversity of people with disabilities and learning difficulties. They have skills and attitudes to foster learners' creativity and autonomy and to contribute to personal development. The teacher should offer a variety of teaching and learning methods. They should be multi-professional.

It is very important to be a successful part of the community and to have a place in society. Especially at school and in education, belonging plays a big role. Therefore, the teacher must take on the role of a mediator and facilitator. He is a mediator in education, but also a mediator in all other areas. Communication is therefore very important.

Teachers should be able to communicate to learners that they can achieve their goals with support and a learning approach.





## 4. Glossary and Definition of terms

**Inclusion** is the equal participation of all people in society.

Social life also includes attending school together.

- **Example:** A school that adapts its curriculum and environment to accommodate students with different learning needs, such as providing wheelchair ramps and offering learning materials in braille or simplified language.

**Inclusive education** includes everyone (all learners/students), regardless of their (dis)abilities and special qualities.

- **Example:** A classroom where students with and without disabilities learn alongside their peers, with teachers using teaching methods that work for all learners. **Inclusion** is the equal participation of all people in society.

Social life also includes attending school together.

### **Peer-to- Peer mediation**

Peer mediation is a process of conflict resolution or finding workable solutions in which individuals from the same group help their peers in a structured dialogue to reach a mutually acceptable solution or to share information relevant to people's daily lives, such as information about rights and how to make them effective, information about obligations and how to carry them out, and so on.

The process promotes communication, empathy and problem-solving skills, while fostering a sense of community and trust between peers.

- **Example:** In a vocational training program or in a self-advocacy group, students or self-advocates facing a disagreement over decisions or equipment engage use in a peer-to-peer mediation. Through structured dialogue, they share perspectives, understand each other's concerns, and collaboratively devise a solution. This process enhances mutual understanding, communication skills, and fosters a sense of community among peers.

### **Pedagogical mediation:**

Pedagogical mediation for inclusive education in schools involves creating an environment and employing teaching strategies that accommodate the diverse needs of all students, including those with disabilities or special educational needs.

#### **Example: Scenario: Inclusive reading lesson**

*Objective:* To teach a reading lesson to a diverse group of students, including those with different learning styles and abilities. Identify the diverse needs and abilities of the students in the class, including those with learning disabilities, English language learners, and students who excel in reading and provide various reading materials at different reading levels to cater to the diverse reading abilities of students, using multimedia resources, such as audiobooks or videos, to support students with different learning preferences.



## **Self-advocation**

Self-advocacy, especially for persons with intellectual disabilities, means they speak up for themselves, expressing their needs, and standing in for their rights. It's about empowering individuals to voice their thoughts and preferences, ensuring their unique needs are understood and respected.

- **Example:** In a program for individuals with intellectual disabilities, a participant, who has difficulty with verbal expression, uses a communication board to convey his preference for a quiet workspace. His self-advocacy leads to the creation of a designated quiet area, ensuring his needs are met and promoting an inclusive environment.

## **Easy-to-read and easy language** (text and verbal)

Information presented in a simple and clear manner, using simple language and uncomplicated formatting to enhance understanding for a wide audience.

Using straightforward words, short sentences, and clear expressions to communicate information in a way that is easily comprehensible, particularly for individuals with various literacy levels or cognitive challenges.

- **Example:** At a community center, information about voting is presented in easy-to-read format. The guide uses easy language, simple words, short sentences, and clear visuals. It explains how to register, where to vote, and what to expect on voting day, ensuring everyone, regardless of their literacy level, can understand and participate in voting.



## References/Sources:

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