

4. Differentiated Instruction

4d. Varieties of group sizes (whole, small, individualized) and length of activities are used.

Quality indicators:

- Sizes of groups vary and children are grouped in ways that expose them to multiple abilities and activities.
- Small group and individual practice is provided as follow-up for teaching skills introduced in whole group lessons.
- Teachers/staff are aware of and plan for shortening the time of activities or breaking activities into short/small components when needed to address needs.
- Teachers are aware of class/group size ratio indicated on IEP's and provide some groupings that address the recommended ratio when possible (teachers should note this in lesson plans).



Questions to ask:

- ✓ *How are group sizes varied and used in the classroom? Are children grouped with different peers on a regular basis?*
- ✓ *Is the length of time of activities varied or individualized based on learning needs of the children?*



Supports, Accommodations, Adaptations

*[Links to Additional Information](#)
[Right click to open in new window](#)*

Universal Supports

- Observe and monitor children in various size groups. Make use of small group sizes to observe children more closely and to observe social dynamics of groups.
- Provide activities that promote cooperative play. Facilitate various size groups during play.

[Grouping Children for Social Growth](#)

[The How and Why of Using Small Groups in Preschool](#)

Targeted/Specialized Supports

- Make use of various size groups during the daily routines and schedules in order to meet individual needs for instruction, self-care, and social skill training.
- Individualize lessons, interests, and curriculum adaptations during small group times in the routines.
- Develop activity matrixes that address small groups as well as individual instruction.
- Provide time in groups of various sizes that are based on a variety of traits, interests, and abilities.

[Collaborative Planning for Addressing Individual Needs](#)

[Using Adapted Books to Encourage Participation](#)

[Sample Group Activity Matrix](#)

[Sample Individual Activity Matrix](#)

Intensive Interventions

- Develop daily schedules that provide for both group and individual instruction based on children's IEP's.
- Incorporated additional guided practice, individualized instruction, and intensive interventions into small group/individual settings during the day.
- Plan for implementation of curriculum modifications during small group follow-up of lessons.

[Curriculum Modification Planning Form](#)

[Ideas to Engage Children with Significant Disabilities](#)