Getting Started: Differentiating Instruction, Vicki Gibson, Ph.D.

Create a Management System
1. Arrange furniture to create work areas (Teaching Table, collaborative & independent practice).
2. Develop daily schedule that includes small & whole group instruction.
3. Create a Business Center (post daily schedule, job chart, rotation chart).
4. Assign roles & train responsibilities for weekly/semi-weekly jobs.
5. Develop a Rotation Chart.
6. Create Do/Done Folders for paper management (and homework folder?).
7. Create mailboxes to assist with paper management.
8. Organize supplies for small group activities.

Organize for Instruction
1. Observe & collect data to determine student variance, strengths & needs.
2. Use data to set instructional purpose.
3. Set reasonable goals & pace for instruction.
4. Use data to assign group memberships (similar & mixed skill, partners)
5. Use data & instructional purpose to select curricula.
6. Plan productive practice activities.
7. Preview text to determine level of difficulty or readability.
8. Plan how you will differentiate (change teaching, or review & re-teach).

Enhance instructional effectiveness
1. Provide student-focused instruction in small groups at Teaching Table.
2. Teach at instructional level; model & provide constructive feedback.
3. Pre-teach vocabulary words, linking to background knowledge & big ideas.
4. Use graphic organizer & technology to illustrate/connect big ideas.
5. Encourage interaction & partnering to enhance oral language development.
6. Differentiate instruction & provide feedback to enhance comprehension.
7. Re-teach or provide additional guided practice as needed.
8. Include repeated collaborative practices before students work alone.

Monitor Progress
1. Monitor to determine student's response to instruction.
2. Record your observations on mailing labels & file in student's mailbox.
3. Use data to assign collaborative, guided practice activities.
4. Use data to assign independent practice, incorporating rough drafts/revisions.
5. Adjust instruction, curriculum, group memberships & pacing as needed.
6. Save work samples, add date & file in mailboxes to compare progress over time.
7. Have students organize prior work with partners to review progress.
8. Report progress & communicate with home to establish consistent expectations.

Tips for Successful Implementation
1. Use role-play to model & teach behavioral expectations for jobs & expectations.
2. Be clear, consistent, & follow through with expectations.
3. Encourage responsibility & accountability, helping students learn to self-regulate.
4. Praise compliance, efforts & achievements, documenting events with photos of students & teachers posted on bulletin board.