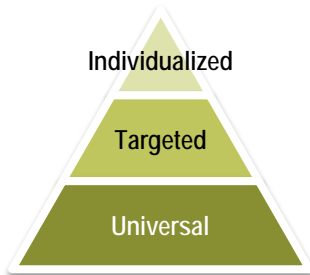


Idea Builder



Idea builder is a strategy that focuses student attention on the essential details within a new idea, concept, or vocabulary word. Students use a graphic organizer to record facts, drawings, examples, non-examples, student-friendly definitions, and a sentence using the new word. Idea builder asks students to think about new learning in multiple ways in order to build deeper understanding.



A teacher's understanding of their students' learning needs helps determine when to provide universal, targeted, or individualized instructional strategies. For some students, universal instructional strategies may be enough to meet their learning needs. For others, more targeted instructional strategies are the starting point for implementing the curriculum. The strategy described is a guideline that teachers can use depending on the learning context.

Why use this strategy in an inclusive learning environment

- Organizes essential information related to a word or concept.
- Guides students to examine ideas from multiple perspectives.
- Builds connections between what students already know and what they are learning.
- Provides a visual and written summary to help students make connections between new and familiar vocabulary and concepts.
- Relationships between words become clearer when students actively construct visual organizers.


How this strategy could be used in an inclusive learning environment

1. Select key vocabulary words or concepts from the subject/discipline, with consideration given to which aspects of the word are most important for students.
2. Ensure students learn extended meanings of the target word by using a brainstorming technique to capture students' collective background knowledge.
3. Discuss similarities between words and the characteristics that set the words apart leveraging students' background knowledge.
4. Provide idea builder graphic organizers to teach the vocabulary or concepts and model each step with students, creating an exemplar for students to refer to as they become more familiar with the strategy.



5. When working in small groups or with a peer, students decide together how to fill in the boxes on the graphic organizer. Not all boxes need to be completed initially; the class or groups can meet several times to add to the organizer as their understanding expands.

Example

Idea Builder	
<p>1. Key Idea</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Natural disasters</p>	<p>2. Facts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • can damage buildings • can be unpredictable • are scary
<p>3. Draw It</p> 	<p>4. Sample Sentence</p> <p>People have a hard time when natural disasters happen where they live.</p>
<p>5. Examples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • forest fires in Alberta • flood in Calgary • typhoon in the Philippines 	
<p>6. Non-examples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • light rain • a car accident • the power going out 	
<p>7. Definition or Summary Sentence:</p> <p>Natural disasters are things that happen to the world that we don't expect. They cause difficulties for many people.</p>	

Tips for individualized supports

- Use visuals in a variety of formats to support and pre-teach vocabulary.
- Use guided reading groups to prepare students to work with a partner or small group.
- Individualize support for students by partially filling in some of the organizer or by using digital visual organizers for the idea builder template and provided guided practice.
- Provide text-to-speech, word prediction, or voice recognition tools.
- Use idea builders in place of written assignments or for assessments across subjects/disciplines.
- For students who are learning English, use personal dictionaries and thesauri in the student's first language to help build vocabulary and express ideas.

