

Resource: How can we make our students with special needs enterprising?

How can we include our students with special needs in an Enterprise Project?

Enterprise Capability

Enterprise Education can provide experiences for young people which will help them to reach their full potential as human beings and to aid their understanding in the participation, along with others, in the world of work which they will encounter when they leave school.

Engaging in a mini-enterprise can be a conduit to independence through which pupils with special needs have the opportunities to achieve alongside their mainstream peers.

In undertaking a mini-enterprise project the following need to be considered

- What are the special needs of each pupil and how can the project be differentiated?
- If the project takes the form of a mini-enterprise then what are the aims?
- The outcomes for Every Child Matters will relate to the project.

The project as outlined below can be adapted or modified to take place during a day or extended to a week or series of lessons.

It will also need to be modified to suit the needs of the pupils.

Take part in a Mini-Enterprise Project

Engage pupils in a mini-enterprise:

Talk about what we can buy from shops and that we could have our own shop. This would be aided by the use of photographs of local or national shops and products. If available then put them up on an interactive white board.

- Take part in a discussion to decide what product they will make and sell.

Again using photos, symbols or drawings to aid recall and stimulate discussion.

- Talk about job roles, from production to sales. What are the job roles in shops that pupils have visited? Who takes the money, who stakes the shelves? Who makes or buys the products?
- Involve pupils in making a plan about how the pupils could have a mini-enterprise. Decide on realistic products and talk through those which are unrealistic.
- Look at stock and equipment that are needed. Make a plan to buy things and price them.
- Decide as a group, on roles for each person. Make the roles realistic to the abilities of each person.
- Decide as a group on how they will sell the products. Decide how much they can be sold for.
- Find out about food hygiene (if appropriate to enterprise) and health and safety aspects and make a record.
- Make or buy packaging if appropriate
- Start production of the product. There could be a production line which relates to a production line in a factory. This can be further explored by external visits to see a production line.
- Sell the product to staff, other pupils or preferably the public.
- Keep a record of finances – this will depend on pupils special needs but can be by use of tallies or symbols or calculators as appropriate to the pupil.

For Pupils with more complex needs it may be more appropriate for them to experience different aspects of the enterprise.

- Experience taking part in the mini enterprise
- Make choices about products they would like to help to make. This may be from a limited choice according to their need.
- Experience having a role in the group production
- Experience helping with the production of an item
- Help to sell the products and experience exchanging a product for money

NB. If food products are being sold to others special care needs to be taken with Food Hygiene procedures. Roles must be allocated carefully to ensure the products are fit to sell (e.g for some pupils their special needs may mean that having a role in the food preparation is not appropriate but they could be given a role as the sales assistant or in preparing advertising posters. This needs to be handled very sensitively by the staff).