



## MULTILEVEL CLASS

Context: compulsory school, levels 1 - 4

Key-words: inclusive learning environment; open learning models; learning from each other

Description: In Austria exists a variety of experimental models of organizing classes and lessons. A multilevel class may comprise 2, 3 or 4 levels; f.e. level 1 and 2, level 1, 2, 3 or all 4 levels of primary education. Focused on a learner-centered approach these classes have to develop a highly differentiated learning environment.

### Benefits of multilevel classes

- students get the chance to learn at their own pace
- group work is implemented from the very beginning
- talented students have the chance to be “a helping hand”
- students become independent learners
- open learning models
- younger students can learn a lot from the older ones and vice versa
- inclusive approach: students (with SEN as well as students with specific educational needs) have the opportunity to participate in different learning activities according to their individual needs
- chance to develop new contents in small groups

### Challenges of multilevel classes

- big efforts in developing the appropriate teaching materials and resources
- development of effective workgroups
- find appropriate offers for students who are not yet able to work in teams
- teachers need to develop multi-task skills