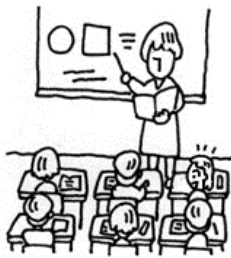




Title: Participation

Subject: Universal Design

Middle: The concept of participation includes different connotations. Words participation, engagement and involvement give different views to it. One, a very useful definition of participation is created by the World Health Organization, WHO. WHO has launched a widely used handbook called The International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health, known more commonly as ICF. ICF is a classification of health and health-related domains. As the functioning and disability of an individual occurs in a context, ICF also includes a list of environmental factors.



Participation at school, d820 in ICF, is defined as follows: *Gaining admission to school, engaging in all school-related responsibilities and privileges, and learning the course material, subjects and other curriculum requirements in a primary or secondary education programme, including attending school regularly, working cooperatively with other students, taking direction from teachers, organizing, studying and completing assigned tasks and projects, and advancing to other stages of education.* (http://www.icfillustration.com/icfil_eng/d/d820.html)

Also the Principles of Universal Design for Instruction© created by McGuire, Scott and Shaw (2006, 170) emphasize important aspects in order to help the pupils to participate. They write about the importance to be able to gain the information needed for learning, flexible solutions, tolerance for error, low physical effort and the need of space. The community and the instructional climate are also important factors in enhancing educational access

References:

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McGuire, J. M., Scott, S. S. & Shaw, S. F. 2006. Universal design and its applications in educational environments. *Remedial & Special Education* 27 (3), 166–175.