

# What is Fair?

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The idea of being fair has become rooted within our society. Most individuals say that “fair” means that we do the same thing in the same manner for everyone. In life and in education “Fair” means that each student/person is doing the activity/job that is best suited for his or her learning. It does not mean that every student/person is doing the same learning activity/job. Because our students’ learning styles can be very different, steps are taken to ensure that ALL students are LEARNING in our classroom. As parents, we need to instill within our children that fairness means individual differences have been identified and the environment that is created is that which is best suited for their success both in school and in life.



As teachers, there are several ways in which our lessons are differentiated to meet the varying needs of our students.

- Different methods in which students take in information
- Varying amounts of time to complete work
- Different assignments depending on ability, readiness, comprehension level, learning preferences, or interests
- Different types of assessments to show what the students have learned (formative assessments)
- Use of data driven instruction, assessing readiness, skill levels, and content knowledge prior to, throughout and at the end of a lesson
- Variety of activities and tasks for students to gather information, learn skills and concepts, and extend their knowledge
- Giving students choices in some of their learning activities (TIC TAC TOE, CRITERIA CARDS)
- Focus on key concepts and standards for all learners, but allow for extension activities to encourage challenging exploration
- Focus on building leadership skills through mixed ability groups
- Be aware of stress which can lead to failure
- Recognize that all students have a hidden talent and ability
- Assess and emphasize students’ strengths and weaknesses
- Motivate students via relevant lessons and topics connected to their interests (learning centers/resident experts)
- Assess specific skills and knowledge that need remediation and a variety of strategies are used to help students in these areas (formative assessments/success center/enrichment activities)

As teachers and parents we need to consider differences in children’s interests, pace of learning, readiness, abilities, and learning styles. We need to work together to encourage students to not only reach their potential but to go beyond. To do this we have to remember, **“Fair means that each individual is doing what is best suited for his/her ability and it may take them more or less time than others.”**

*The one choice you never have is the choice to do nothing!*