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A perspective from a person with dyslexia – Twiggy Chan (Boaz International Education)

I am Twiggy Chan, the founder of Boaz International Education. Personally, I have been officially diagnosed as having dyslexia, and I am now a qualified social worker and teacher who serve both mainstream and children with special needs. Regarding the policy of the inclusion education system in Hong Kong, I would like make a few comments.

Martin Luther King made a speech on "I have a dream", and I certainly I have mine too. My dream is to start up an inclusive school catering for special needs and focus on for providing a positive environment for students to develop their talents. And this is exactly what our center has been offering, receiving encouraging improvement in students.

In Hong Kong nowadays, most students with learning difficulties are doorned to failure with the one-way assessment methods. I researched on assessing the effectiveness of inclusive education in an International schools catering for children with special needs in the past. Prevention of failure in students was one of the key elements of the school policy, in which students are identified and provided with additional or special support before any frustration built. To achieve the above, differentiation is the key.

The school differentiates in terms of curriculum, assessment and teaching and learning. The differentiation of curriculum works in 3 different levels within a school. Once a student is being assessed, he/she would be arranged to attend BTEC, A-level or the IB program according to their ability level. The differences in the multiple assessment methods laid the greatest success of this arrangement. From my own experience, my academic life hadn't been change until I enrolled in the BTEC curriculum. Not that because I cannot study or understand the other curriculums, it is the change of assessment methods that prove my ability. The importance of differentiation in assessment methods work in a way that promote a genuine student-oriented learning. Apart from the single assessment method, like essay writing, that all students are required to take, some other special arrangement on assessment methods like lowering the difficulties of questions serves as an effective evaluation tools on the achievement of students with special needs. Not only can the teachers assess students' ability, the more promising result obtained by students works as the biggest motivator to learn.

"Success inspires success" has always been one of my mottos in education. My first A-graded project from BTEC inspired my later achievement in obtaining distinction in all subjects. Therefore, I strongly believe that everyone can be successful. If a child cannot learn the way we teach, we teach the way he/she learns. For enquires, feel free to contact Twiggy Chan through enquiry@boazeducation.com.hk.