



Learning Difficulties

4th International Erasmus+/ICM Week,

Round table discussion

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Common Types of Learning Difficulties

- **Dyslexia:** Difficulty with reading and writing
- **Dyscalculia:** Difficulty with math
- **Dysgraphia:** Difficulty with writing
- **ADHD:** Difficulty with attention and hyperactivity
- **Auditory Processing Disorder:** Difficulty processing sounds
- **Visual Processing Disorder:** Difficulty processing visual information
- **Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD):** Difficulty with social interaction, communication, and repetitive behaviors

Common Learning Activities and their Impact on Student Performance

1. Active Learning Strategies

Engaging Students: Active learning techniques, such as group discussions, problem-based learning, and simulations, foster student engagement and critical thinking.

Enhanced Comprehension: These strategies promote deeper understanding of concepts by encouraging students to actively participate in the learning process.

2. Collaborative Learning

Peer-to-Peer Learning: Collaborative activities, like group projects and peer tutoring, allow students to learn from each other and develop valuable teamwork skills.

Increased Motivation: Working together can boost student motivation and create a positive learning environment.

3. Technology-Enhanced Learning

Personalized Learning: Technology tools, such as educational software and online resources, can tailor learning experiences to individual student needs.

Improved Accessibility: Digital resources can make education more accessible to diverse learners, including those with disabilities.

4. Real-World Applications

Practical Skills: Connecting classroom learning to real-world situations helps students develop practical skills and apply knowledge to real-life challenges.

Increased Relevance: Real-world applications make learning more relevant and meaningful for students.

5. Formative Assessment

Continuous Feedback: Regular formative assessments, like quizzes and exit slips, provide students with timely feedback to improve their learning.

Targeted Instruction: Formative assessment data helps teachers identify areas where students need additional support and tailor instruction accordingly.

6. Positive Reinforcement

Motivational Strategies: Positive reinforcement, such as praise, rewards, and encouragement, can significantly boost student motivation and confidence.

Improved Self-Efficacy: Recognizing and celebrating student achievements fosters a growth mindset and a belief in their own abilities.

By incorporating these common learning activities into educational practices, we can significantly enhance student performance, engagement, and overall learning outcomes.

Assistive Technologies for Engaging Presentations

1. Text-to-Speech Tools

Natural Reader: Converts text into natural-sounding speech, ideal for screen readers or those with visual impairments.

Natural Reader Power PDF: Integrates text-to-speech into PDF documents, making them accessible to a wider audience.

2. Mind Mapping Tools

Mind Meister: Visually organizes ideas and concepts, helping you structure your presentation and improve understanding.

Coggle: Collaborative mind mapping tool, perfect for brainstorming and planning with your team.

3. Presentation Software

PowerPoint: Offers accessibility features like alternative text for images, speaker notes, and customizable slide designs.

Google Slides: Cloud-based presentation software with accessibility features, including screen reader compatibility and text alternatives.

4. Gamification Tools

Kahoot!: Interactive quiz platform to engage your audience and test their knowledge.

Quizizz: Another interactive quiz tool that offers various question types and real-time feedback.

5. Captioning and Subtitling Tools

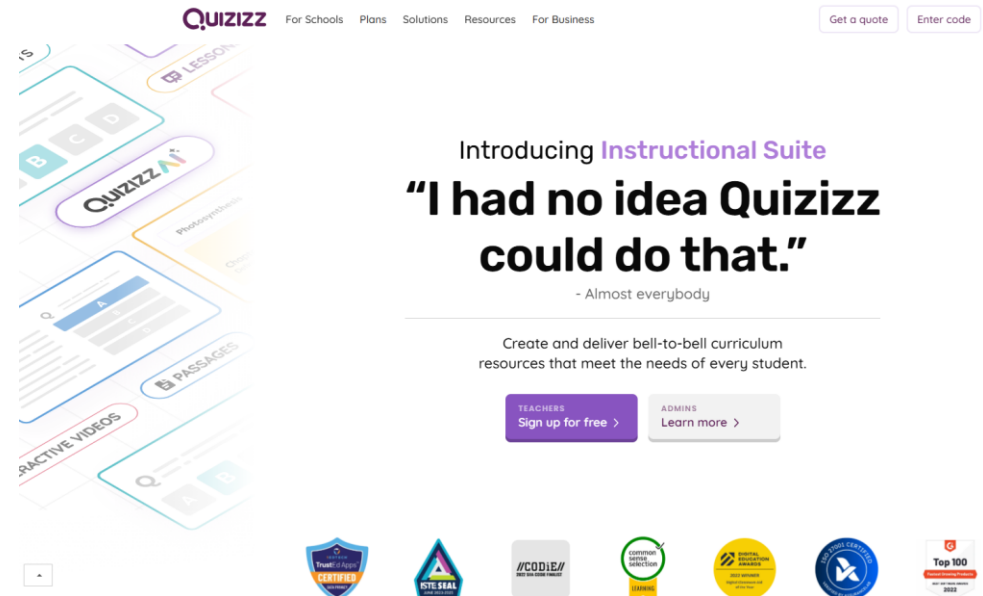
YouTube Automatic Captions: Automatically generates captions for videos, improving accessibility for deaf or hard-of-hearing viewers.

Camtasia: Screen recording software with built-in captioning and subtitling features.

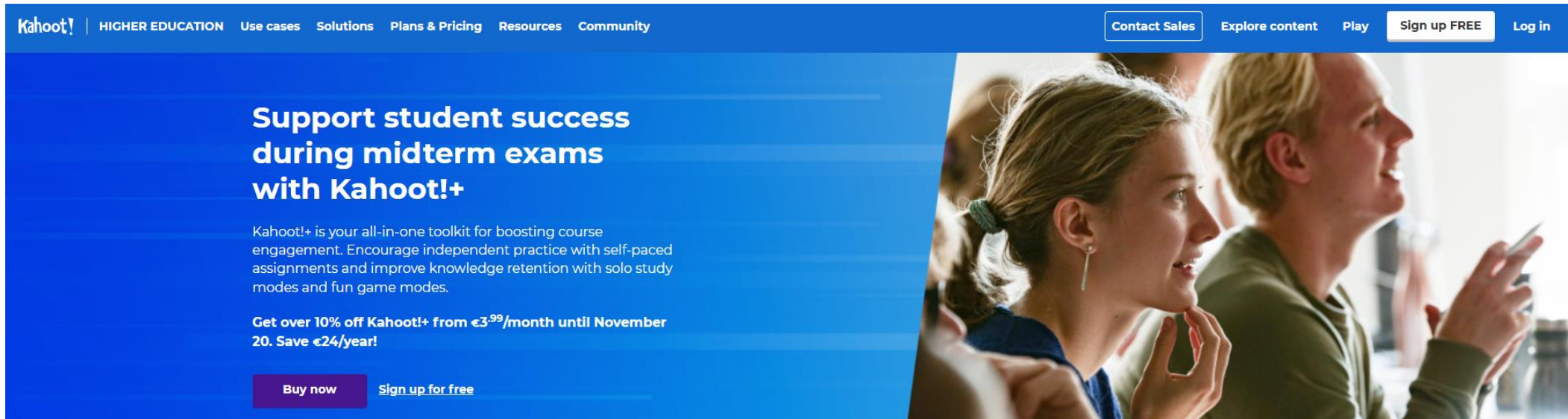
Mind mapping tools



Gamification tools



The image shows the top half of the Quizizz website. On the left is a vertical stack of colorful icons representing different features: 'Lesson', 'QUIZZ', 'Proctoring', 'PASSAGES', and 'PRACTICE VIDEOS'. The main header area includes the 'Quizizz' logo, navigation links for 'For Schools', 'Plans', 'Solutions', 'Resources', and 'For Business', and buttons for 'Get a quote' and 'Enter code'. The central text reads 'Introducing Instructional Suite' followed by a large quote: 'I had no idea Quizizz could do that.' attributed to '- Almost everybody'. Below this is a sub-headline: 'Create and deliver bell-to-bell curriculum resources that meet the needs of every student.' Two buttons are present: 'TEACHERS Sign up for free >' and 'ADMINS Learn more >'. At the bottom of the section is a row of seven certification and award logos, including 'CERTIFIED', 'ISTE', 'CODIE', 'EDUPEDIA', 'TOP 100', and others.



The image shows the top half of the Kahoot! website. The header is a solid blue bar with the 'Kahoot!' logo on the left, followed by navigation links: 'HIGHER EDUCATION', 'Use cases', 'Solutions', 'Plans & Pricing', 'Resources', and 'Community'. On the right side of the header are buttons for 'Contact Sales', 'Explore content', 'Play', 'Sign up FREE', and 'Log in'. The main content area has a blue background on the left with white text. The headline reads 'Support student success during midterm exams with Kahoot!+'. Below this is a paragraph: 'Kahoot!+ is your all-in-one toolkit for boosting course engagement. Encourage independent practice with self-paced assignments and improve knowledge retention with solo study modes and fun game modes.' A promotional offer states: 'Get over 10% off Kahoot!+ from €3.99/month until November 20. Save €24/year!'. At the bottom of this section are two buttons: 'Buy now' and 'Sign up for free'. On the right side of the main content area is a photograph of two students, a young woman and a young man, looking at a smartphone together.

Additional Tips:

Remember to tailor your use of these tools to your specific audience and presentation goals. By effectively utilizing these technologies, you can create more engaging, inclusive, and effective presentations.

Keep it Simple: Avoid overloading your presentation with too many tools or features.

Practice: Rehearse your presentation to ensure smooth delivery and effective use of technology.

Test Your Equipment: Make sure all your devices and software are working properly before your presentation.

Seek Feedback: Ask for feedback from your audience to identify areas for improvement.

Tips to Reduce Stigma Associated with Learning Difficulties

Education and Awareness

- **Workshops and Seminars:** Organize workshops and seminars to educate students, faculty, and staff about different learning difficulties, their challenges, and how to support students with these conditions.
- **Awareness Campaigns:** Launch awareness campaigns to challenge stereotypes and promote understanding. Use social media, posters, and other visual aids to spread the message.

Supportive Policies and Practices

- **Inclusive Curriculum:** Design curricula that are accessible to all students, including those with learning difficulties. Use a variety of teaching methods and materials to accommodate different learning styles.
- **Flexible Assessment:** Offer flexible assessment options, such as extended time, alternative formats, or reduced workload, to accommodate students' needs.
- **Confidential Support Services:** Provide confidential counseling and support services to help students cope with the challenges of learning difficulties.

Tips to Reduce Stigma Associated with Learning Difficulties (cont.)

- **Disability Services:** Ensure that disability services are well-funded and accessible to all students.
- **Encouraging Open Dialogue**
- **Peer Mentorship Programs:** Pair students with learning difficulties with mentors who can offer support, guidance, and friendship.
- **Student Support Groups:** Create safe spaces for students to share their experiences, challenges, and coping strategies.
- **Open Communication:** Encourage open and honest communication between students, faculty, and staff. Create a culture where students feel comfortable discussing their needs and seeking support.

By implementing these strategies, universities can create a more inclusive and supportive environment for students with learning difficulties, reducing stigma and promoting academic success.

Take home message