

What's The Difference I.G.E. vs. The Traditional Approach

Learning Concept	The Traditional Approach	The I.G.E. Approach	Advantages of I.G.E.
Organization	By grade in classroom with one primary teacher.	In a homeroom classroom with multiple teachers in the Unit sharing responsibility for learning.	More flexible groupings; more levels and more variety of materials available.
Administration	One "boss" (principal) over all teachers	Unit leaders, heading up team of 3 – 4 teachers, share administrative responsibilities with principal.	Decisions are made, based on closer firsthand knowledge of the students; efforts of teachers in a unit are better coordinated.
Pupil Age	Pupils in each class within 12 month span.	Pupils in units have up to 36 months age span.	Grouping according to need and interest, rather than age; more chance for pupils to learn from and teach each other.
Grouping	Students in one class together for the day.	Grouping varies from subject to subject and is constantly changing; extensive use of small group and one to one.	Greater opportunity to provide pupil with the learning situations in which they will learn best.
Curriculum	Curriculum assigned by grade level.	Same subject matter, but approach emphasizes setting objectives in each subject area, and placing pupils at level in which they need.	Learning skills and objectives sequentially listed; continuous assessment built in; self-improvement and learning how to learn stressed.
Assessment	"Big Test" for the whole class. Numerical grade important.	Pre and post-test cycle; continuous assessment on paper and by observation.	Pupil charts own progress and not discouraged by continual failing; individual growth and progress important.
Media	Use of traditional media.	Multi-level materials, and extensive use of varied media. Use of iPads in classrooms.	Pupils more interested and involved in what they are doing; decision-making and responsibility encouraged.
Teaming	Optional: when done, usually by subject.	Multi-disciplinary teaching; purpose of teaming is to share teaching talents and insights into pupils.	More attention on individual pupil, and individualized instruction.
Atmosphere	More structures; chairs in rows; materials passed out to desk.	More movement; small groups working in different areas; resources throughout school used.	Situations more like real life; children encouraged to use resources, and become self-sufficient.

In-Service	Self-improvement often up to individual staff members.	Building focus on the needs of the learners in the building.	Teachers work to continuously increase knowledge on teaching and learning
Home School Program	Generally PTO type organization with social and fund-raising responsibilities.	Parent Advisory Committee which provides 2-way communication between parents and the school.	Parents become better informed and more involved.
Overall Attitude	Child must fit into the educational system.	The educational system should be modified to best suit pupil needs.	Child encouraged to develop positive attitude about themselves and school; has more opportunity for success.