

Guidelines for Teachers of Students with General Learning Disabilities

These guidelines have been developed to assist teachers and others in meeting the needs of students with general learning disabilities. They can be used in mainstream primary and special primary schools, post-primary schools, and other educational settings. They are intended for use by all teachers and should also be accessible to a range of other personnel directly involved with the student's education. These include Special Needs Assistants, therapists, management staff, parents, guidance counsellors, carers, advisory support services and professionals from health, social services and the voluntary sector.

Treoirlínte do Mhúinteoirí Daltaí le Míchumais Ghinearálta Foghlama

Ceapadh na treoirlínte seo chun cuidiú le múinteoirí agus le daoine eile atá ag iarraidh freastal ar dhaltaí le míchumais ghinearálta foghlama. Tá siad oiriúnach do bhunscoileanna príomhshrutha agus do bhunscoileanna speisialta, d'iarbhunscoileanna agus do shuímh oideachais eile. Ceapadh iad do na múinteoirí uile agus ba cheart go mbeidís oiriúnach chomh maith do phearsanra eile atá bainteach go díreach le hoideachas na ndaltaí sin. Orthu seo tá Cúntóirí Riachtanas Speisialta, teiripeoirí, foireann bhainistíochta, gairmchomhairleoirí, cúramóirí, seirbhísí tacaíochta comhairleacha agus gairmithe ó na seirbhísí sláinte agus sóisialta agus ón earnáil deonach.

Drawing on the most recent research and current good practice in Ireland and abroad, the guidelines seek to support schools and teachers in developing curriculum experiences for students with general learning disabilities that are broad, balanced, relevant, differentiated, progressive and continuous. This support includes:

- → offering advice on school and classroom planning
- → emphasising a student-centered collaborative approach
- → assisting planning for individual educational needs
- → outlining how learning can be differentiated
- → suggesting a variety of teaching approaches and methods
- → providing examples of good practice.

Tá na treoirlínte bunaithe ar an taighde is déanaí agus ar an gcleachtas is fearr in Éirinn agus thar lear, agus féachann siad le tacú le scoileanna agus le múinteoirí chun eispéiris churaclaim a fhorbairt a bheidh leathan, cothromaithe, ábhartha, éagsúlaithe, forásach agus leanúnach do dhaltaí le míchumais ghinearálta foghlama. Áirítear ar an tacaíocht seo

- → comhairle a thairiscint maidir le pleanáil scoile agus pleanáil seomra ranga
- → béim a chur ar chur chuige comhoibritheach dalta-lárnach
- → cuidiú le pleanáil do riachtanais oideachasúla aonair
- → léiriú a thabhairt ar bhealaí leis an bhfoghlaim a éagsúlú
- → raon cur chuige agus modhanna teagaisc a mholadh
- → samplaí de dhea-chleachtas a sholáthar.

Legislation, both nationally and internationally, increasingly underpins inclusive policies and practices in the area of Special Education. Inclusive education involves schools developing their culture, management, organisation, content and approaches to teaching and learning, to accommodate the educational needs of all students to the greatest possible extent. Schools face many challenges and opportunities in striving to be truly inclusive and it is intended that these guidelines will support schools and teachers in this task.



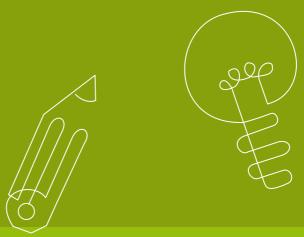
The ideas and approaches included in these guidelines will act as a springboard for further development of appropriate educational strategies for students with general learning disabilities.

Tá reachtaíocht, idir reachtaíocht náisiúnta agus reachtaíocht idirnáisiúnta, ag éirí níos coitianta i gcónaí mar bhonn le beartais agus cleachtais cuimsitheacha i réimse an Oideachais Speisialta. Is é atá i gceist le hoideachas cuimsitheach ná go bhforbródh scoileanna a gcultúr, a modhanna bainistíochta, a n-eagraíocht, a n-ábhair agus na cineálacha cur chuige a úsáideann siad i leith an teagaisc agus na foghlama chun gur féidir leo freastal ar riachtanais oideachasúla na ndaltaí ar fad chomh fada agus is féidir. Is iomaí dúshlán a bhíonn le sárú ag scoileanna agus iad ag iarraidh a bheith cuimsitheach go hiomlán agus tá sé ceaptha go dtacóidh na treoirlínte seo le scoileanna agus le múinteoirí san obair seo.



Beidh na smaointe agus na cineálacha cur chuige atá sna treoirlínte mar chatalaíoch d'fhorbairt bhreise ar straitéisí oiriúnacha oideachasúla do dhaltaí le míchumais ghinearalta foghlama.

It is envisaged that the ideas and approaches included in the guidelines will act as a springboard for further development of appropriate educational strategies for students. Above all, it is hoped that they will contribute to the exciting and challenging process of enabling students with general learning disabilities to acquire the knowledge, concepts, skills and values that are relevant to their present and future lives.

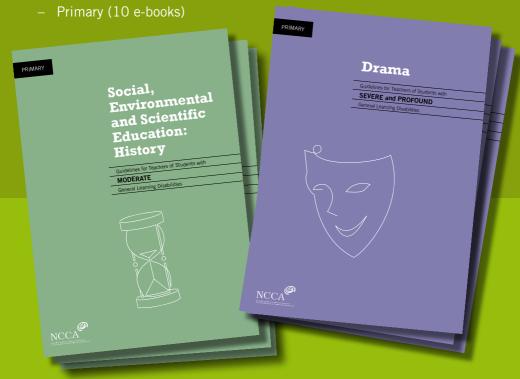


Meastar go mbeidh na smaointe agus na cineálacha cur chuige atá sna treoirlínte mar chatalaíoch d'fhorbairt bhreise ar straitéisí oiriúnacha oideachasúla do dhaltaí. Thar aon ní eile, tá súil go gcuideoidh siad leis an bpróiseas spreagúil agus dúshlánach atá i gceist le cur ar chumas daltaí le míchumais ghinearálta foghlama an t-eolas, na coincheapa, na scileanna agus na luachanna a bheidh uathu ina saol anois agus feasta a ghnóthú.





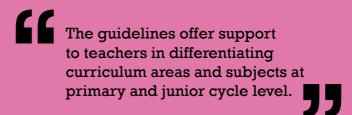
- → Guidelines for teachers of students with mild general learning disabilities
 - Post-Primary (13 e-books)
 - Primary (11 e-books)
- ightarrow Guidelines for teachers of students with moderate general learning disabilities
 - Primary (10 e-books)
- → Guidelines for teachers of students with severe and profound general learning disabilities



- → Treoirlínte do mhúinteoirí daltaí le mion-mhíchumais ghinearálta foghlama
 - larbhunscoil (13 r-leabhar)
 - Bunscoil (11 r-leabhar)
- → Treoirlínte do mhúinteoirí daltaí le meán-mhíchumais ghinearálta foghlama
 - Bunscoil (10 r-leabhar)
- → Treoirlínte do mhúinteoirí daltaí le dian-mhíchumais agus trom-mhíchumais ghinearálta foghlama
 - Bunscoil (10 r-leabhar)

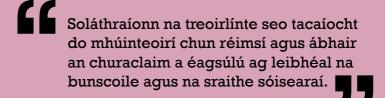
Students with mild general learning disabilities

Students with mild general learning disabilities are not easily distinguishable from their peers. Their learning needs are often difficult to define, due to the multiplicity of factors that can contribute to their leaning disability. Their difficulties are often only identified after starting school, when they show a slower pace of learning progress than others of their age group. Like their peers who do not have learning disabilities, they have a wide range of learning styles, varied interests and the same need for affirmation and success.



Daltaí le mion-mhíchumais ghinearálta foghlama

Is deacair uaireanta daltaí le mion-mhíchumais ghinearálta foghlama a idirdhealú óna bpiaraí. Bíonn a riachtanais foghlama deacair a mhíniú, i ngeall ar na tosca iomadúla a fhéadann tionchar a bheith acu orthu. Go minic is tar éis teacht ar scoil dóibh a aithnítear na deacrachtaí atá acu, nuair a léiríonn siad luas níos moille foghlama ná páistí eile ina n-aoisghrúpa. Mar is ionann lena bpiaraí nach bhfuil faoi mhíchumas foghlama, bíonn raon leathan stíleanna foghlama acu, mar aon le spéiseanna éagsúla agus leis an ngá céanna le hathdhearbhú agus rath.



A supportive learning environment will help students to develop their own learning strategies in relation to their interests and capabilities. They need to be involved in their own learning and have opportunities to discuss their own difficulties. The guidelines offer support to teachers in differentiating curriculum areas and subjects at primary and junior cycle level.

Challenges faced by students with mild general learning disabilities may include some or all of the following:

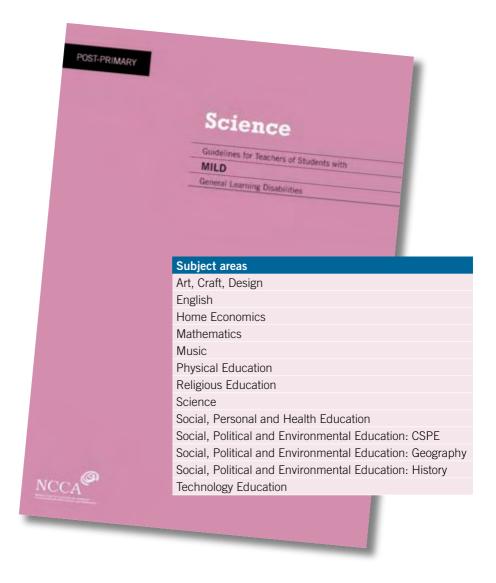
- → delayed conceptual development and limited ability to generalise
- → difficulty expressing ideas and feelings in words
- → limited attention span and retention
- → clumsiness and difficulties with motor skills
- → underdeveloped sense of spatial awareness
- → difficulty adapting to new situations.

Cabhróidh timpeallacht tacaíoch foghlama le daltaí a gcuid straitéisí foghlama féin a fhorbairt bunaithe ar a spéiseanna agus a gcumas féin. Ní mór dóibh a bheith bainteach lena bhfoghlaim féin agus ní mór dóibh deiseanna a fháil chun a ndeacrachtaí féin a phlé. Soláthraíonn na treoirlínte seo tacaíocht do mhúinteoirí chun réimsí agus ábhair an churaclaim a éagsúlú ag leibhéal na bunscoile agus na sraithe sóisearaí

Ar na dúshláin a bhíonn le sárú ag daltaí le mion-mhíchumais ghinearálta foghlama bheadh cuid díobh seo a leanas nó iad ar fad:

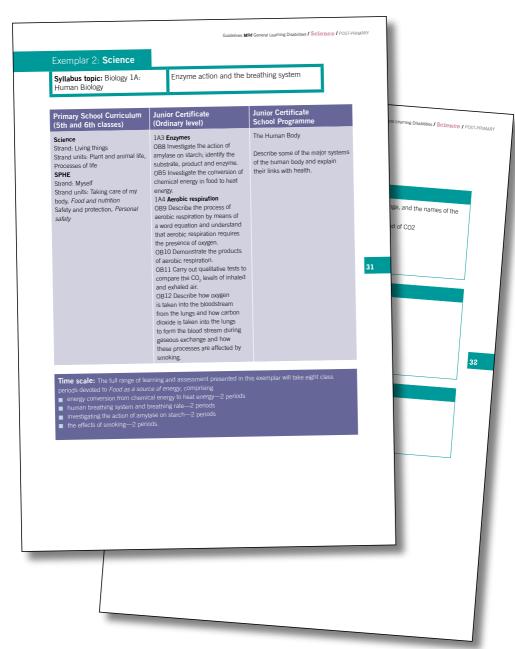
- → forbairt coincheapúil moillithe agus cumas teoranta chun ginearálú a dhéanamh
- → deacracht maidir le smaointe agus mothúcháin a chur i bhfocail
- → cumas teoranta díriú ar ábhar agus an fhoghlaim a choimeád
- → amscaíocht agus deacracht le scileanna luaile
- → braistint tearcfhorbartha ar fheasacht spásúil
- → deacrachtaí le dul i dtaithí ar dhálaí nua.

Guidelines for Teachers of Students with MILD General Learning Disabilities: **Post-Primary**



Treoirlínte do Mhúinteoirí Daltaí le **MION**-Mhíchumais Ghinearálta Foghlama: **Iarbhunscoil**

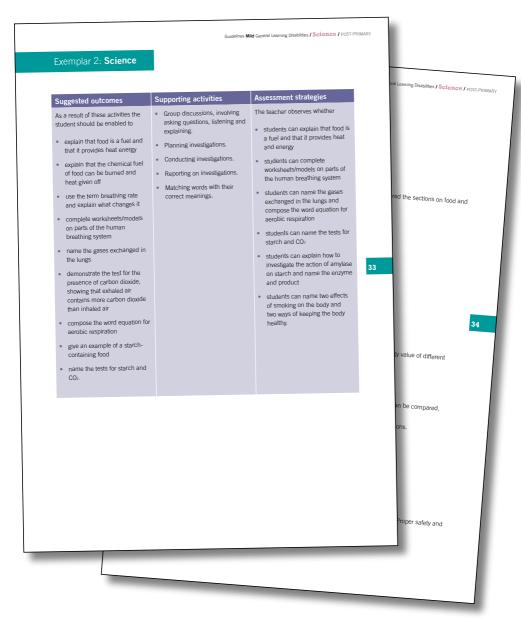
Guidelines for Teachers of Students with Mild General Learning Disabilities / Science / POST-PRIMARY



Leathanaigh shamplacha:

Threoirlínte do Mhúinteoirí Daltaí le Mion-Mhíchumais Ghinearálta Foghlama / Eolaíocht / IARBHUNSCOIL

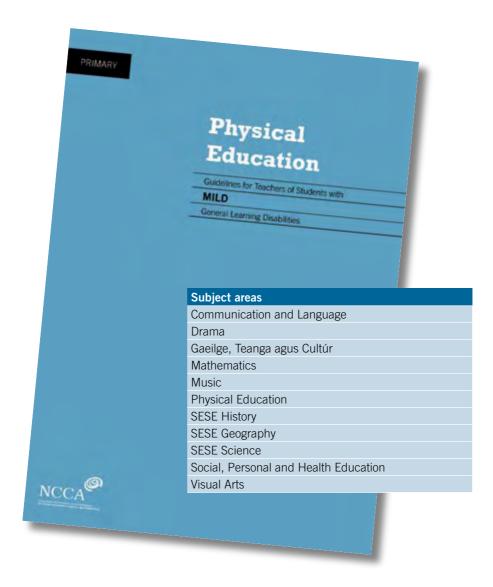
Guidelines for Teachers of Students with Mild General Learning Disabilities / Science / POST-PRIMARY



Leathanaigh shamplacha:

Threoirlínte do Mhúinteoirí Daltaí le Mion-Mhíchumais Ghinearálta Foghlama / Eolaíocht / IARBHUNSCOIL

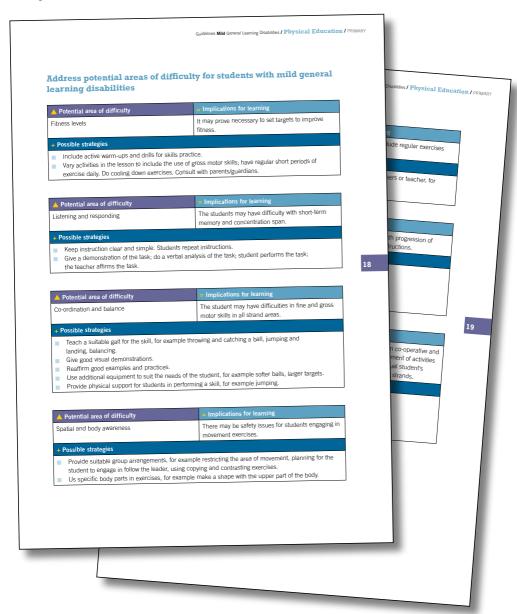
Guidelines for Teachers of Students with MILD General Learning Disabilities: **Primary**



Treoirlínte do Mhúinteoirí Daltaí le **MION**-Mhíchumais Ghinearálta Foghlama: **Bunscoil**

Guidelines for Teachers of Students with Mild General Learning Disabilities /

Physical Education / PRIMARY



Leathanaigh shamplacha:

Threoirlínte do Mhúinteoirí Daltaí le Mion-Mhíchumais Ghinearálta Foghlama /

Corpoideachas / BUNSCOIL

Guidelines for Teachers of Students with Mild General Learning Disabilities /

Physical Education / PRIMARY



Leathanaigh shamplacha:

Threoirlínte do Mhúinteoirí Daltaí le **Mion**-Mhíchumais Ghinearálta Foghlama **/**

Corpoideachas / BUNSCOIL

Students with moderate general learning disabilities

Students with moderate general learning disabilities have varied learning needs unique to each individual. As with all students, their learning potential should be recognised and developed as fully as possible. While some students with moderate general learning disabilities may follow the same developmental path as others in various aspects of human development, the rate may be slower and the level reached is generally lower than that attained by their peers. They are not a homogeneous group, and even those of the same apparent developmental age will not progress though the stages of development at the same rate.

Daltaí le meán-mhíchumais ghinearálta foghlama

Bíonn riachtanais foghlama na ndaltaí le méan-mhíchumais ghinearálta foghlama éagsúil ó dhalta go dalta. Mar is amhlaidh i gcás gach dalta, ní mór a gcumas foghlama a aithint agus a fhorbairt ar an gcaoi is iomláine is féidir. Cé go bhféadfadh sé go leanfadh roinnt daltaí le méan-mhíchumais ghinearálta foghlama an cosán forbraíoch céanna le daltaí eile i ngnéithe éagsúla d'fhorbairt an duine, d'fhéadfadh an luas a bheith níos moille agus de ghnáth bíonn an leibhéal a shroichtear níos ísle ná an leibhéal a shroicheann a bpiaraí. Ní grúpa aonchineálach iad agus beidh éagsúlacht fiú sa luas ina rachaidh daltaí a bhfuil an aois fhorbraíoch dhealraitheach chéanna acu trí chéimeanna éagsúla na forbartha.

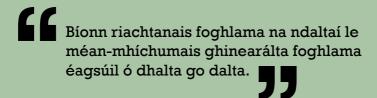
Challenges faced by students with moderate general learning disabilities may include some or all of the following:

- → limited concentration
- → passivity
- → delayed oral language development
- → difficulty in adapting to their environment
- → limited ability to generalise
- → difficulties in problem solving.



Ar na dúshláin a bhíonn le sárú ag daltaí le méan-mhíchumais ghinearálta foghlama bíonn cuid díobh seo a leanas nó iad ar fad:

- cumas teoranta díriú ar ábhar
- → éighníomhaíocht
- → forbairt mhall ar theanga ó bhéal
- → deacracht maidir le hiad féin a chur in oiriúnt dá dtimpeallacht
- → cumas teoranta ginearálú a dhéanamh
- → deacrachtaí fadhbréitigh.



The material in the guidelines for teachers of students with moderate learning disabilities is laid out in the three broad bands called Phase 1, Phase 2, and Phase 3. The bands provide a framework within which teachers can identify and plan a suitable programme of work commensurate with the student's level of functioning. While bands are not age related, it is extremely important to keep age-appropriateness in mind when structuring activities.

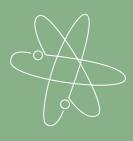
The initial, Phase 1, suggests activities which are appropriate for the early learner. Because students with a moderate general learning disability will move along the continuum at very different rates, suggestions are offered in Phases 2 and 3 on how older students who have not yet mastered the early learning outcomes can continue to work on these skills with different, more age-appropriate materials.

Tá an t-ábhar sna treoirlínte do mhúinteoirí daltaí le meán-mhíchumais ghinearálta foghlama leagtha amach i dtrí bhanda leathana ar a dtugtar Céim 1, Céim 2 agus Céim 3. Soláthraíonn na bandaí creat ar féidir le múinteoirí clár oiriúnach oibre a bheidh oiriúnach do leibhéal feidhmíochta na dalta a cheapadh agus a phleanáil laistigh de. Cé nach bhfuil gaol ag an bandaí le haois, tá sé fíorthábhachtach go gcoimeádfaí aois-oiriúnacht i gcuimhne nuair a bhíonn gníomhaíochtaí á gceapadh.

Moltar sa chéad chéim, Céim 1, gníomhaíochtaí a bheadh oiriúnach don bhfoghlaimeoir luath. Toisc go ngluaisfidh daltaí le meán-mhíchumais ghinearálta foghlama ar feadh an chontanaim ar luasanna an-difriúla, cuirtear moltaí ar fáil i gCéimeanna 2 agus 3 ar conas is féidir leis na daltaí is sine nach bhfuil na torthaí luathfhoghlama bainte amach fós acu leanúint ar aghaidh ag obair ar na scileanna seo le hábhair dhifriúla a bheidh níos oiriúnaí dá n-aois.

The overall aim is to provide all students with relevant and appropriately challenging work at each stage of their development. The activities that are outlined have a practical life-skills orientation that addresses both the present and the future needs of the students. A spiral approach to learning is recommended, where the student's learning is supported through constant revision of and building on concepts already learned.

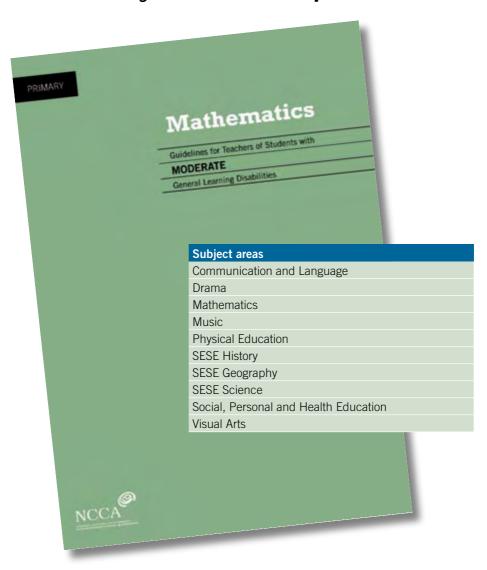




An aidhm san iomlán ná obair dhúshlánach atá ábhartha agus oiriúnach a sholáthar do dhaltaí ag gach céim dá bhforbairt. Tá treoshuíomh praiticiúil ó thaobh scileanna beatha de ag na gníomhaíochtaí a dtugtar srac-chuntas orthu anseo, rud a fhreastalóidh ar riachtanais na ndaltaí inniu agus a dhéanfaidh soláthar dá riachtanais amach anseo. Moltar cur chuige bíseach i leith na foghlama, mar a dtugtar tacaíocht d'fhoghlaim an dalta trí shíorathbhreithniú a dhéanamh ar na coincheapa atá foghlama cheana féin agus míreanna nua foghlama a bhunú orthu.

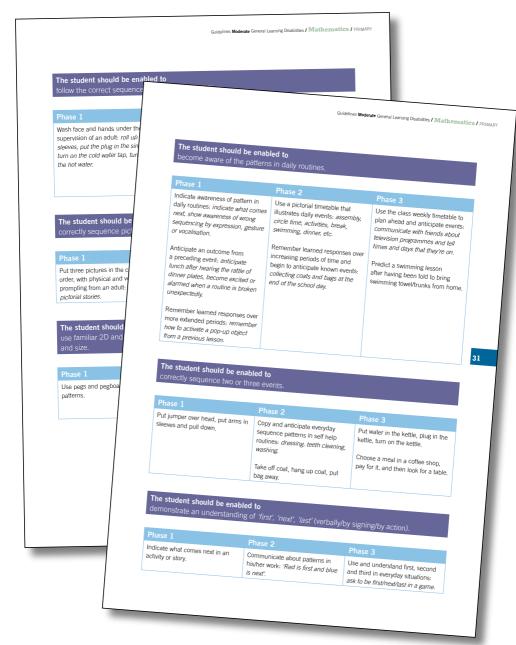


Guidelines for Teachers of Students with **MODERATE**General Learning Disabilities: **Primary**



Treoirlínte do Mhúinteoirí Daltaí le **MEÁN**-Mhíchumais Ghinearálta Foghlama: **Bunscoil**

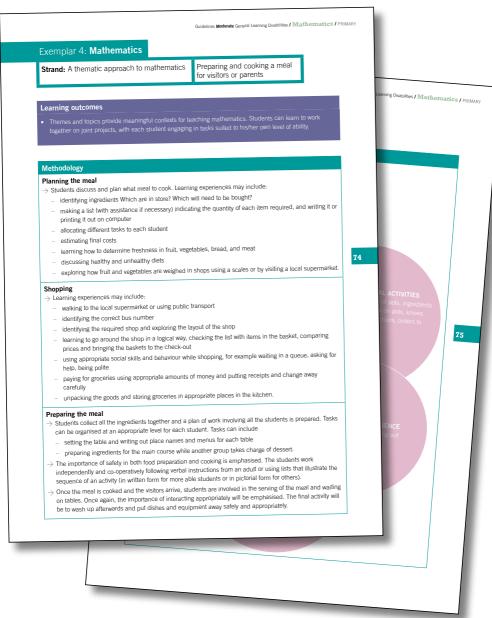
Guidelines for Teachers of Students with Moderate General Learning Disabilities / Mathematics / PRIMARY



Leathanaigh shamplacha:

Threoirlínte do Mhúinteoirí Daltaí le **Meán**-Mhíchumais Ghinearálta Foghlama / **Matamaitic** / BUNSCOIL

Guidelines for Teachers of Students with Moderate General Learning Disabilities / Mathematics / PRIMARY



Leathanaigh shamplacha:

Threoirlínte do Mhúinteoirí Daltaí le **Meán**-Mhíchumais Ghinearálta Foghlama / Matamaitic / BUNSCOIL

Students with severe and profound general learning disabilities

Students with severe and profound general learning disabilities have the same general needs as any other student and will be similarly impacted by significant life changes. Their learning needs will be affected by previous life experiences, culture, personality traits and individual preferences. The guidelines focus on developing students' enabling skills and on building their strengths in order to facilitate their participation in learning activities.

Students with severe and profound general learning disabilities have the same general needs as any other student and will be similarly impacted by significant life changes.

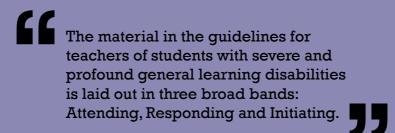
Daltaí le dian-mhíchumais agus trom-mhíchumais ghinearálta foghlama

Féadfaidh na riachtanais ghinearálta chéanna a bheith ag daltaí le dian-mhíchumais agus trom-mhíchumais ghinearálta foghlama is a bhíonn ag dalta ar bith eile agus rachaidh athruithe móra ina saol i gcion orthu ar an mbealach céanna. Beidh tionchar ag a dtaithí ar an saol go dtí seo, a gcultúr, tréithe a bpearsantachta agus a roghanna aonair ar a neart na ndaltaí a fhorbairt ionas gur féidir leo a bheith rannpháirteach i



Féadfaidh na riachtanais ghinearálta chéanna a bheith ag daltaí le dian-mhíchumais agus trom-mhíchumais ghinearálta foghlama is a bhíonn ag dalta ar bith eile agus rachaidh athruithe móra ina saol i gcion orthu ar an mbealach céanna.

Encouraging students to move from a passive to a responsive and interactive role in which they initiate activities and communication will also be a crucial element of each learning activity. Opportunities for choice and control are essential.



Gné chriticiúil de gach gníomhaíocht foghlama ná daltaí a mhisniú chun tiontú ó ról éighníomhach go ról freagrúil agus idirghníomhúil inarb iadsan a chuireann tús le gníomhaíochtaí agus le cumarsáid. Beidh deiseanna le haghaidh rogha agus rialú fíorthábhachtach.

Tá an t-ábhar sna treoirlínte do mhúinteoirí daltaí le dian-mhíchumais agus trommhíchumais ghinearálta foghlama leagtha amach i dtrí cinn de bhandaí leathana:

I Láthair, Ag Freagairt agus Ag Cur Túis.

The material in the guidelines for teachers of students with severe and profound general learning disabilities is laid out in three broad bands: Attending, Responding and Initiating.

Attending	Responding	Initiating
The Attending band focuses on students who are in the very early stages of awareness of the immediate environment.	The Responding band focuses on students who are taking an interest in their environment, but who are still dependent on adult prompting to initiate activities and communication.	The Initating band focuses on students who are beginning to control their environment, develop curiosity, and initiate activities and communication.

Tá an t-ábhar sna treoirlínte do mhúinteoirí a bhfuil daltaí le dian-mhíchumais agus trom-mhíchumais ghinearálta foghlama acu leagtha amach i dtrí cinn de bhandaí leathana: I Láthair, Ag Freagairt agus Ag Cur Túis.

I Láthair	Ag Freagairt	Ag Cur Túis
Díríonn an banda 'I Láthair' ar dhaltaí atá ag céim an-luath feasachta maidir lena ngarthimpeallacht.	Díríonn an banda 'Ag Freagairt' ar dhaltaí atá ag cur spéise ina dtimpeallacht, ach atá fós ag brath ar leideanna ó dhaoine fásta chun tús a chur le gníomhaíochtaí agus le cumarsáid.	Díríonn an banda 'Ag Cur Túis' ar dhaltaí atá ag tosú ar smacht a fháil ar a dtimpeallacht, a léiríonn fiosracht, agus a chuireann tús le gníomhaíochtaí agus le cumarsáid.

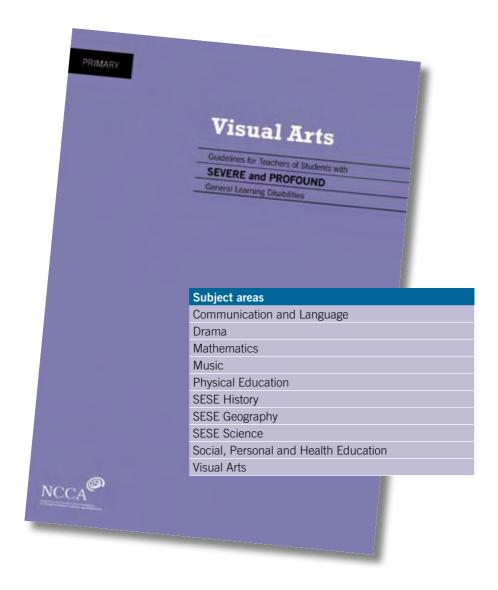
The learning needs of students with severe and profound general learning disabilities may include some or all of the following:

- → learning targeted at a very early developmental level
- → consideration of additional motor and/or sensory difficulties
- → basic self-care needs
- → significant needs in the area of communication, with strategies for non-verbal communication being critical
- → significant emotional and/or behavioural needs that affect learning and social interaction
- → specific help in generalising concepts and skills to enable them to accommodate to a change of context.

Féadfaidh cuid de na rudaí seo a leanas, nó iad ar fad, a bheith ar riachtanais foghlama na ndaltaí le dian-mhíchumais agus trom-mhíchumais ghinearálta foghlama:

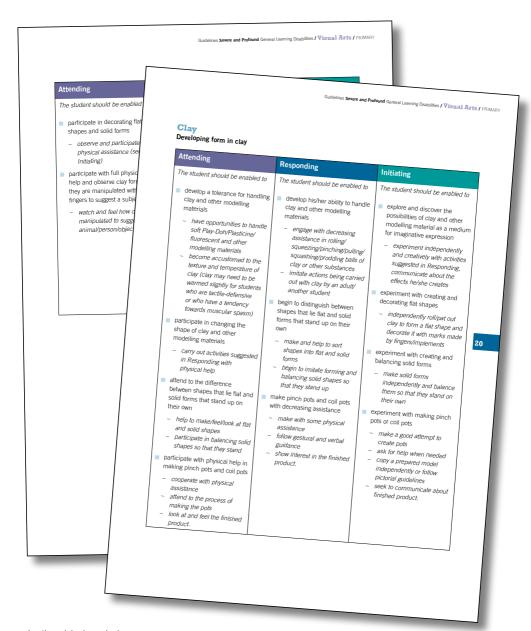
- → foghlaim a bheidh dírithe ar leibhéal forbraíoch an-luath
- → breithniú ar dheacrachtaí breise luaile agus/nó céadfacha
- → bunriachtanais féinchúraim
- → riachtanais thábhachtacha i réimse na cumarsáide, le béim ar leith ar straitéisí do chumarsáid neamhfhoclach
- → riachtanais mhóra mothúchánacha agus/nó iompraíochta a théann i gcion ar a n-idirghníomhú foghlama agus sóisialta
- → cabhair ar leith chun coincheapa a ghinearálú agus na scileanna a fháil a chuideoidh leo dul i dtaithí ar chomhthéacsanna atá tar éis athrú.

Guidelines for Teachers of Students with **SEVERE AND PROFOUND** General Learning Disabilities: **Primary**



Treoirlínte do Mhúinteoirí Daltaí le **DIAN**-Mhíchumais agus **TROM**-Mhíchumais Chinearálta Foghlama: **Bunscoil**

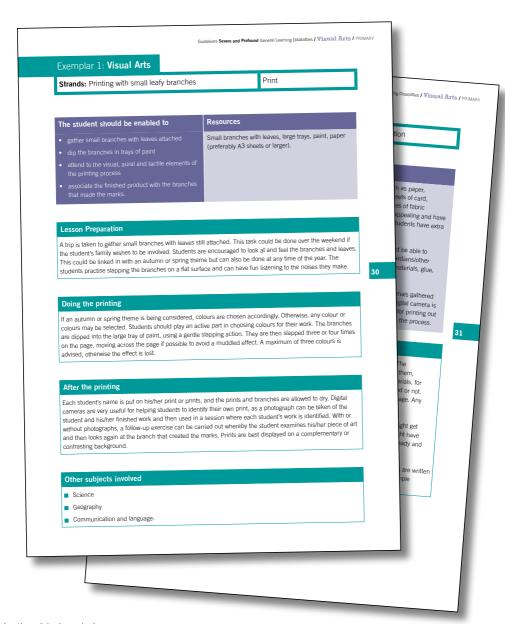
Guidelines for Teachers of Students with Severe and Profound General Learning Disabilities / Visual Arts / PRIMARY



Leathanaigh shamplacha:

Threoirlínte do Mhúinteoirí Daltaí le **Dian**-Mhíchumais agus **Trom**-Mhíchumais Ghinearálta Foghlama **/ Na hAmharcealaíona /** RUNSCOII

Guidelines for Teachers of Students with Severe and Profound General Learning Disabilities / Visual Arts / PRIMARY



Leathanaigh shamplacha:

Threoirlínte do Mhúinteoirí Daltaí le **Dian**-Mhíchumais agus **Trom**-Mhíchumais Ghinearálta Foghlama **/ Na hAmharcealaíona /** RUNSCOII

How the guidelines were developed

The Education Act (1998) refers to particular reference to the role of the NCCA in advising the Minister for Education and Science on the curriculum for students with a disability or other special educational needs. In 2002, to fulfill this remit, the NCCA developed draft guidelines for teachers of students with general learning disabilities.

To gain insights into the value of the guidelines to teachers, schools and parents, the NCCA embarked on a series of consultations during the period 2002-2004. The findings of this consultation process resulted in the development of these revised and new guidelines for primary and post-primary education.

An chaoi ar ceapadh na treoirlínte

Tagraíonn an tAcht Oideachais (1998) go speisialta don ról atá ag an gComhairle Náisiúnta Curaclaim agus Measúnachta maidir le comhairle a chur ar an Aire Oideachais agus Eolaíochta i dtaobh churaclam do dhaltaí le míchumas nó a bhfuil riachtanais speisialta oideachais acu. Sa bhliain 2002, chun na téarmaí tagartha seo a chomhlíonadh, cheap an CNCM dréacht-threoirlínte do mhúinteoirí daltaí le míchumais ghinearálta foghlama.

Chun léargas a fháil ar luach na dtreoirlínte sin do mhúinteoirí, do scoileanna agus do thuismitheoirí, thug an CNCM faoi shraith chomhairlithe le linn na tréimhse 2002-2004. Ba de bharr tátail an phróisis chomhairliúcháin sin a ceapadh na treoirlínte athbhreithnithe agus nua seo do lucht bhunoideachais agus iarbhunoideachais araon.

The guidelines were developed in collaboration with the partners in education, including parents, teachers, boards of management, colleges of education, psychologists and the Department of Education and Science.



Ceapadh na treoirlínte sin i gcomhar leis an páirtithe oideachais, lena n-áirítear tuismitheoirí, múinteoirí, boird bhainistíochta, coláistí oiliúna, síceolaithe agus an Roinn Oideachais agus Eolaíochta.





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