# MICHAEL

## PROFILE

Michael has enrolled onto the Certificate II in Plumbing pre-vocational course which runs Monday to Wednesday 8.00am to 3.45pm with Thursday and Friday mandatory Work Placement.  Michael has a hearing impairment that he has had since birth.  He wears hearing aids in both ears but struggles with a large amount of verbal information and instructions given at one time.  He can lip read very well, but it has affected his confidence and interpersonal skills. The Disability Support team have created an Individual Support Plan to accommodate Michael’s hearing.  Michael did not disclose that he experiences extreme anxiety. This is his first course post-high school and he must catch two buses to get to the campus which is on the other side of town in the industrial area.

## IMPACT ON MICHAEL

* Social withdrawal
* Isolation
* Difficulties interacting with others
* Lack of concentration

## IMPLICATIONS FOR LEARNING

* Fear of interacting with others
* Avoidance of group tasks
* Exclusion by other learners because of ‘different behaviour’
* Learner may appear withdrawn and disinterested
* Leaner may appear unconnected to practical and group activities
* Difficulty concentrating in a noisy environment
* Struggles to understand verbal instructions if teacher’s face not visible
* Struggles to interpret teacher’s instructions in a workshop environment

## EVENT

Michael arrived 20 minutes late on day one.  He was unable to navigate around the campus.  He missed the induction tour. His teacher is busy and does not notice this. Assuming Michael has been present all morning, he asks him a question in front of the entire class. Michael has no idea of the answer and he freezes – unable to respond. What can Michael’s teacher do to d support Michael’s learning?

**Discuss with your table and nominate 5 important priority strategies.**

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| **Inclusive Educator Strategies** |
| Have patience with student’s decision-making process; reframe or redirect the topic |
| Set realistic achievable tasks and outcomes  |
| Provide extra time to complete learning activities where appropriate  |
| Help with study and organisational skills and learning to learn strategies |
| Ensure opportunities to revise what was covered in the previous class |
| Provide different types of learning activities in a session that show early success |
| Allow for frequent rest breaks – if needed |
| Minimise distractions in learning setting |
| Prepare a quiet space for students to work if necessary |
| Simplify task instructions - one task at a time- smaller steps |
| Help with identifying key information; class discussion and scaffolding the learning  |
| Empathise where a student is experiencing difficulties and challenges |
| Use a consistent teaching approach and keep variations to a minimum |
| Make clear to all students upfront that you are available for any issues and concerns |
| Provide opportunities for interaction in pairs or small groups rather than just the whole class  |
| Give oral feedback in a positive manner supported by written feedback on assignments/assessments |
| Acknowledge and understand that behaviour is often related to our well-being and mental health  |
| Always be ready to encourage students to participate even where it may be challenging |
| Work to include all students in all activities  |
| Acknowledge frustration and try to understand/empathise with the cause |
| Be calm, patient and empathise with how the student is feeling ‘I can see that you are upset. Is there something I can do?’ |
| Be ready and flexible to accommodate a student needing  a break, coffee or a walk to calm down |
| Acknowledge student diversity and perspectives  |
| Show genuine interest in the student’s well-being: seek common interest to connect with the student |
| Understand that disinterest in classroom activities is not necessarily a criticism of your teaching |
| Ensure the student has a reliable and effective system to communicate with you and if necessary, set aside a time each week to meet  |
| Have a structured daily or weekly timetable and prepare students adequately for changes to schedules  |
| Plan for consistent strategies to deal with inappropriate behaviour, accepting that behaviour may relate to a communication need  |
| Focus on positive behaviour and the student’s strengths |
| Use and support a study mate system in class |
| Negotiate with student an option to take work home if needed |
| Identify and discuss alternative formats with the student prior to assessment: e.g. oral or practical demonstrations of competency  |
| Set realistic achievable goals and outcomes. Provide extra time to complete learning activities and reduce the number of activities if appropriate |
| Contact Student/Equity services immediately If concerned about a student’s general wellbeing |
| Explore supported pathways (internal and external) for a student to build language skills |
| Facilitate ongoing enrolments with the capacity for students to re-enrol next semester if work not completed |
| Make expectations clear about all aspects of training including standards of work and assessment requirements |
| Provide lesson notes prior to training delivery (electronic and/or hard copy) to help student prepare |
| Provide opportunity for the student to withdraw from the group when necessary |
| Model positive behaviour, self-talk and problem solving |
| Make sure a student is not put on the spot by being targeted to do things they feel uncomfortable doing |
| Review progress, goals and student expectations periodically  |
| Minimise any unnecessary requirements regarding oral presentations if the student feels uncomfortable |
| Arrange to show students around the campus/facilities if they missed induction |
| Respect a student’s need to work on their own |
| Understand that some may need to negotiate to arrive late so they can come in when everyone is settled and quietly settle themselves |
| Demonstrate flexibility and show respect if a student needs to leave early (planned and unexpected) |
| Direct safe questions to group and don’t single out individuals |
| Reduce anxiety by giving prompt feedback |
| Maintain contact with students and be observant of any unexpected withdrawal from participation |
| Provide seating near the door and freedom to leave if a student is feeling panicky |
| Design assessment tasks where possible to allow students to have choice about how they will present their learning  |
| Other strategies: |