



10. Celebrating Neurodiversity in Our Schools

Spotlight on
Supporting Autistic
Girls and Gender
Diverse Students
at School

Introducing and celebrating neurodiversity in the classroom starts with recognising that every student has a different type of brain, and every brain will learn and process information differently. These differences in learning are just that – differences – not deficiencies. There is no right or wrong way of being and learning. By creating learning spaces that don't just accommodate these differences, but openly acknowledge them, we provide all students with the tools they need to succeed. Neuro-affirming classrooms are designed for the benefit of all students.

Key Tips for Introducing and Celebrating Neurodiversity at School Include:



Normalising Differences

It helps students understand that everyone has differences, whether visible or not, and these differences contribute to who we are. Recognising this allows children to feel accepted and to be their authentic selves.



Promoting individuality and self-acceptance

Students learn to appreciate their own uniqueness and that of others, fostering a sense of self-worth and acceptance.



Normalising challenges and supports

It makes it clear that everyone has strengths and challenges, and that seeking support for those challenges should be free of shame.



Explaining accommodations

Teaching about neurodiversity helps students understand why there are different rules and accommodations for different students, normalising the provision of necessary supports based on individual needs.



Providing insight into diverse brains

This insight is crucial for reducing stigma and stereotypes, especially around neurodivergence, by helping students understand why people do things differently.



Enhancing teachers' insights

Through activities and discussions, teachers gain a deeper understanding of all of their students, enabling them to create a more inclusive and supportive environment for neurodivergent students.



Improving inclusive attitudes

By fostering an understanding that people have diverse characteristics and needs, it may help develop more inclusive attitudes and decrease the likelihood of exclusion and bullying towards those students who are perceived as being different from the majority.

For further reading from Yellow Ladybugs on introducing neurodiversity into the classroom, see our book: [All Brains Are Different \(All Brains Are Different \(Hard cover\) – Yellow Ladybugs\)](#) and accompanying Teacher's Guide [\[Teacher Guide – All Brains Are Different DIGITAL – Yellow Ladybugs\]](#).