

Pedagogical Knowledge

Pedagogy, taken as an academic discipline, is the study of how knowledge and skills are imparted in an educational context, and it considers the interactions that take place during learning.

Pedagogy is often described as the act of teaching.

Basic pedagogy consists of four basic elements teachers need to be proficient in to be an effective teacher.

1. Questioning

- Questioning is the most important tool to open up the content of the curriculum for children.
- Good questions form bridge between short and long-term memory.
- Outstanding teachers devote time and energy to planning and delivering effective questions to promote learning.
- Teachers must be competent in asking **higher order questions**, which require a higher level of cognitive skills to ask and answer.

2. Responsive/Adaptive Teaching (Adaptation)

- Teachers need to support pupils with conversations which help unpack and scaffold the material during the lesson. Access to that material should be through talk, modelling and practice.
- Teachers must support middle or lower attaining students; tasks can be scaffolded in different ways. This enables all students to access the same curriculum, working on the same concepts and skills at the same time.

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3. Independent Learning

- Independent learning does not mean children working alone. It means developing children's ability, through carefully planned teaching to take charge of their own learning.
- It involves teachers devising activities where children can make informed choices, take responsibility for their own learning and are motivated and confident enough to make decisions about their own learning.

Independent learner characteristics

- ✓ Thinks for themselves
- ✓ Works collaboratively
- ✓ Questions
- ✓ Reflects
- ✓ Negotiates
- ✓ Concentrates
- ✓ Perseveres

4. Assessment for Learning

Assessment for Learning is the process of seeking and interpreting evidence for use by learners and their teachers to decide where the learners are in their learning, where they need to go and how best to get there.

- **Formative assessment** is the ongoing assessment that occurs in every lesson. This takes the form of oral or written feedback.

The best formative assessment should contain the following elements.

- ✓ Identify successes and areas for improvement
 - ✓ Be regular and ongoing
 - ✓ Inform planning and the next learning step
 - ✓ Identify how children learn most effectively
 - ✓ Motivate children to achieve more
 - ✓ Involve the children
- **Summative assessment** is used to *evaluate student learning* at the end of an instructional unit by comparing it against some standard or benchmark.

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