Principles of Effective Learning

From an article by Julia Atkin

Teaching is designing for learning
Designing is an art form
As in any art form, there are principles

Many heads are better than one
Collaboration

The brain needs to be stimulated to learn
- Challenge
- Curiosity
- Mystery and Intrigue
- Excitement
- Relevance

We need to feel secure to learn
- Protect Self Esteem
- Safe Supportive

We learn with our whole body
- Multi-sensory
- Experimental

We yearn to achieve
- Accessible
- Achievable
- Challenges
- Celebration
- Reward

Learning is constructing and reconstructing meaning
- Value prior knowledge

We don't automatically have the necessary skills to learn
- Develop Skills
  co-operative
  organizational
  thinking
  operational and task specific

We can be challenged and stimulated by the standards set by others
- Healthy Competition

We learn when we have a purpose
- Focus
- Goal

We yearn for enrichment
- Variety
- Diversity
- Creativity

We learn by copying
- Modelling

Everyone likes to be acknowledged and to contribute
- Involvement

The brain finds it easy to learn patterns; difficult to learn arbitrary information
- Draw out the essence and meaning
- Find the pattern

The brain needs to talk to learn
- Sharing
- Discussion
- Debate

Understanding develops through examples, metaphors & models
- Show examples and non-examples

We need to know how we're going
- Feedback

We yearn to express ourselves
- Ownership
- Choice

Understanding is essential to meaningful language acquisition
- Understanding before definition and proposition

Mastery in learning requires practice and persistence
- Perseverance
- Consolidation
- Practice

Do you have a good design for learning in your school?
Do teachers have good designs for learning in their classrooms?
Are teachers' learning needs met?
Are students' learning needs met?

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