

Strength based learning

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Strength based learning

- ▶ *Adults already know a lot*
- ▶ *Adults need their knowledge and experience to be respected*
- ▶ 'Truisms' / 'principles' of adult education



Strength based learning

Another strength

Adults' motivation to interact with other students in a learning situation



Strength based learning

If we can bring together these two strengths –

- ▶ *adults' existing individual knowledge*
- ▶ *& their motivation to communicate*

- ▶ respect learners' prior knowledge
- ▶ give them an opportunity to combine it
- ▶ *powerful source of learning and growth*



Strength based learning

talk that – *enriches the subject matter*

Structured activities



Advantages of group collaboration

- ▶ *'exploratory speech'* vs *'explanatory speech'*
- ▶ *jointly construct knowledge*
 - *'what you're saying is'*
 - *'oh yeah that's like ...'*
 - *'do you mean ...'*



Advantages of group collaboration

Allows students to combine different kinds of knowledge –

- ▶ **formal** – subject related
- ▶ **informal** – from their world experience

1. Enhancing subject learning



Advantages of group collaboration

2nd aspect

Explicit language focussed activities –
assist to understand and use subject
related language



Advantages of group collaboration

3rd aspect- social inclusion

- ▶ structured group collaboration can assist students to feel more part of the learning group
- ▶ increases the number of ways they can participate
- ▶ taking on different roles within the group



Advantages of group collaboration

Social roles

- ▶ explaining task to latecomers
- ▶ keeping the group on track
- ▶ asking clarifying questions

- ▶ **actively contribute** - signal their interest and participation even when they do not feel they have enough knowledge to contribute

- ▶ **'Peripheral Participation'**



Some strategies – activity models

From you own experiences as an adult learner:

Think of a recent learning situation
with a positive inclusive atmosphere

How did that atmosphere come about?



Some strategies – activity models

Oral Rehearsal



Some strategies – activity models

Think – pair – share

or

1 – 2 – many

1 – 2 – 4



















POLISIA

▶ Eleanor Roosevelt:

*'everyday do something
that scares you'*











Structured activities

- ▶ Pair activities – not just putting 2 people together to do what they might have done alone



Structured activities

- ▶ Jigsaw activities
- ▶ One example – cooperative logics
- ▶ Many other applications

