

Essential Education

Learning Made CERTAIN

Better Results and Bigger Learning

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Determine the degree of mastery of key skills.

Key skills can be both academic and non-academic. As you assess you are creating a picture of the student which allows you to individualize the instruction meaningfully.

Academic Content
Facts, knowledge,
experience

Skills – Problem-
solving, process
skills, technique

Cross-curricular -
Strategies, tools,
meta-cognition

Read the following excerpt and consider how to identify key skills in each of the 5 areas.

5 Key Skills for Academic Success

It takes a combination of skills — organization, time management, prioritization, concentration and motivation — to achieve academic success. Here are some tips to help get your child on the right track.

Identify problem areas.

Start here to help your child identify which of the five skill areas are trouble spots.

1. Organization

Whether it's keeping track of research materials or remembering to bring home a lunch box, children need to be organized to succeed in school. For many students, academic challenges are related more to a lack of organization than to a lack of intellectual ability.

2. Time Management

Learning to schedule enough time to complete an assignment may be difficult for your student. Even when students have a week to do a project, many won't start until the night before it's due. Learning to organize time into productive blocks takes practice and experience.

3. Prioritization

Sometimes children fall behind in school and fail to hand in assignments because they simply don't know where to begin. Prioritizing tasks is a skill your child will need throughout life, so it's never too soon to get started.

4. Concentration

Whether your child is practicing her second-grade spelling words or studying for a trigonometry test, it's important that she works on schoolwork in an area with limited distractions and interruptions.

5. Motivation

Most children say they want to do well in school, yet many still fail to complete the level of work necessary to succeed academically. The reason is often motivation. Tapping into your child's interests is a great way to get him geared to do well in school.

Developing a Skill Assessment

1. Write skills as standards

2. Design tasks to assess

3. Identify criteria

4. Create rubrics to assess

Organization

Rubric for Assessment

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-
-

Time Management

Rubric for Assessment

-
-
-

Prioritization

Rubric for Assessment

-
-
-

Concentration

Rubric for Assessment

-
-
-

Motivation

Rubric for Assessment

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-
-



Divide the learning into small pieces.

Segmentation of the learning plan makes it easier for learners to meet short term goals and helps instructors be more responsive to the learners' needs.

List three ways that you currently break up the learning into manageable pieces?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Background – why is this important?

- Small batches are doable for all (divide and conquer)
- Light at the end of the tunnel with each skill or sub-skill
- Success is sooner
- Motivating and rewarding
- Combats overwhelmedness
- Supports self-directed learning in small bursts
- Allows teachers to do formative assessments
- Master each skill before moving on to the next (leave no skill behind)
- Flows from detailed diagnostics
- No more skipping fundamentals when you scaffold the instruction
- Teaches an important life-skill: building a strong foundation is crucial in any endeavor
- Helps with organization skills when learners manage their own progress

Why Else?

Let's talk about examples from your classes

Suggested Classroom Applications

Small group activities

Use anchor standards, targets and sub-skills

Show learners how much they already know by identifying background knowledge and life accomplishments that actually check skills off the list of your curricula

Use a culminating activity to show how the pieces work together

Follow a sequence of instruction that is customized to each learner's gaps

Establish an over-arching segmentation: Pre-HSE, HSE, Advanced HSE/CCR

Identify specific skills for mastery in each level

Share performance data about students' position on each skill and within each over-arching level and reward progress

SMART Assessment

After intake and before a summative assessment, instructors need to gauge learners performance on a variety of tasks to help identify each individual's specific needs.

What formative assessments are you regularly using with students?

- -
- -
- -

Why do we use formative assessments?

The more you know about students, the more you can help them.

Enables modification of the learning plan between summative assessments.

Always need to know how your students are doing.

Your students need to know about their gains and deficiencies.

Makes sure your students are on track.

Catch misconceptions and incorrect problem solving strategies before they take root.

Accelerate learning for those who have already mastered skills.

The more assessment tools a teacher has the better.

Diagnostics are not helpful unless the right skills are being measured.

Helps orient students on their position in terms of short-term and long-term goals.

Teachers and students are on the same page.

Adult learners need to be in the driver's seat to become successful lifelong learners.

How can we use formative assessments?

Use NRS aligned tests for placement, but use formative assessments for skills assessment.

Measure soft skills.

Test your students' thinking styles (unlike learning styles, this helps you figure out how your students' approach organization, studying and testing).

Organize group work and monitor student leadership skills.

Offer distance and extended learning and note who takes advantage.

SMART Assessment

Form groups of 2 or 3 and share the formative assessments you are currently using and what they assess.

Suggested Assessment #1

Type of assessment –

What it measures?

Key benefits?

Suggested Assessment #2

Type of assessment –

What it measures?

Key benefits?

Suggested Assessment #3

Type of assessment –

What it measures?

Key benefits?

Corrective Instruction

Responding with immediate feedback with additional direction after receiving any data on student performance will keep the learner engaged and on track.

What safety nets do you use to keep learners from falling behind or internalizing failure?

Why do we use corrective instruction?

All learners cannot progress at the same pace on all skills. Some will need extra support or opportunities to accelerate
Shorten the feedback time so make immediate changes to the learning plan
Adjustment comes out of formative assessment and summative assessment
Problems identified during practice need instruction, not more practice
Breaks the cycle of internalized failure by students. Yes, they can learn. Build on that success.

How can we apply this to classroom environments?

Address misconceptions up front
Use data from smart assessments to reteach
Be prepared to administer correctives and assess and reteach repeatedly until a skill is mastered.
Demonstrate different approaches and discuss the merits of each for true understanding
Create activities for additional exposure to the most crucial concepts
Units and levels offer ideal adjustment points and a chance to review
Answer keys should explain so that the material is continuing to teach the learners



Corrective Instruction


How would you correct the following error?

Developing Strong Support



Use the following prompt to answer the questions below.

Imagine your city council is hearing arguments for and against reopening an abandoned drive-in movie theater. The developer is requesting some taxpayer money to contribute to the renovation and in return pledges to have a free family movie night every other month for the first two years.

-  3. A local citizen argues: "It is unfair for taxpayers to pay for business development. A drive-in theater would just encourage young people to drink in their cars. When the theater was open in the 1980s, it caused a lot of traffic. This theater is a bad idea."
- a. Does the argument provide specific facts? How does this affect the argument?
-

What does this show about the student?

What other content might be important to strengthen?

How can you provide the student with a chance for mastery?



High Engagement in Personalized Learning

Students will be more motivated to learn when the learning is interesting to them and engaging in its delivery. With the “edutainment” society, this becomes more of a challenge.

7 Keys to Capturing People’s Attention

Harvard Business Review – Ben Parr

1. Automaticity – Things our brains are trained to react to and quickly give attention to for survival – i.e. gunshot.
2. Framing – When information comes to us in a context we can connect with personally – i.e. birds of a feather.
3. Disruption – When something is out of the “norm” – i.e. sign twirlers
4. Reward – When there is a pot of gold we can see and feel and get excited about – i.e. candy!
5. Reputation – When someone is an “expert” they command more attention – i.e. guest speaker
6. Mystery – When we don’t know the ending – i.e. holding back some info and letting students discovery it.
7. Acknowledgement – our need for validation and empathy creates a powerful hold on attention – i.e. praising correct responses.

High Engagement in Personalized Learning

Automaticity	
Tips	Ideas
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Use a physical sense- Create a chant	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Have a bell to initiate activities- "I got spirit, yes I do..."

Framing	
Tips	Ideas
<ul style="list-style-type: none">--	<ul style="list-style-type: none">--

Disruption	
Tips	Ideas
<ul style="list-style-type: none">--	<ul style="list-style-type: none">--

Reward	
Tips	Ideas
<ul style="list-style-type: none">--	<ul style="list-style-type: none">--

Reputation	
Tips	Ideas
<ul style="list-style-type: none">--	<ul style="list-style-type: none">--

Mystery	
Tips	Ideas
<ul style="list-style-type: none">--	<ul style="list-style-type: none">--

Acknowledgement	
Tips	Ideas
<ul style="list-style-type: none">--	<ul style="list-style-type: none">--