



Learner Centered Principles and Practices

Respectful: Learners feel important and valued. Adults need to feel respected for who they are, where they've been, and what they know how to do.

Immediately Meaningful: The class offers learners something that they feel is helpful in their own lives right now, that they can take back and use right away.

Safe: Learners feel comfortable and confident, and are willing to jump in to the discussion.

Engaging: Learners are involved, and participate in their learning. We look for the smiles, conversation, laughter, questions, and movement that let us know our learners are engaged.

Open Questions: Questions asked do not have set "correct" answers. They often include the words "what" or "how," and "you." These questions don't feel as if the teacher is "fishing" for an answer.

Pause for Answers: Teachers wait at least 5 seconds for a group to answer an open question; as learners may feel shy, or may need time to think about the question before they respond.

Affirm: Teacher praise learners who volunteer an answer. Even if the teacher does not agree with what is said, learners will feel respected and others will feel encouraged to contribute.

Work in Pairs: Learners often feel more comfortable talking to just one other person rather than in front of an entire group. Talking in pairs often feels safer, and gets more people involved in the class at the same time.

Learning Style — Hear, See, Do: Many different learning styles are considered when classes are designed: "Tell me and I'll forget; show me and I may not remember; involve me and I'll understand".

Provides Information: The class gives participants important new information.