

Transferring

Activity: The Tree of Learning and Life

Engage students in a fun task that doesn't appear to be about learning.

Enable students to use a wide range of learning habits / dispositions as a result of being challenged or stuck.

Use as a vehicle to expand on the idea that we can learn from every experience

- Divide students into groups of five or six.
- Provide each group with straws, sellotape and scissors.
- Select one member of each group to be observer, brief observers.
- Observer to note how the group works and rate this on a scale. Also to identify what could have been developed further to improve performance.
- Show learning challenge
- Request the groups to:
Build the tallest, freestanding learning tree in the next 15 minutes.
You may not talk.

Observers ask their groups about how they worked and what made them effective group learners.

Observers show their observation sheets to the group and compare with the group's own view.

"What habit would have improved their performance?"

NB Most groups identify planning as the aspect that would have aided performance

- Invite discussion about the ways in which planning could have been enhanced within the activity.

- When we are learning to do something we use a whole range of learning habits and dispositions — we can train ourselves to get better at these things.
- Move on to Transferring activities and the Learning Log.

Things you need to provide	Things to Try ...
Packs of straws Rolls of sellotape Pairs of scissors	• Extend by judging the learning trees using criteria you have not given to the group. • Note reactions of groups. • Discuss the importance of knowing criteria by which something will be judged (marked, assessed) before embarking on a task. • Explore criteria for judging a learning tree to extend the idea that we learn throughout life.