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Theory of Learning

Learning is a process that requires intuition, determination, and perseverance. All learners are said to be different. What works for one learner may not work for another. The zone of proximal development plays a key role in learning and should be handled carefully in order to produce the best results. Some learners require visuals while some prefer a hands on approach. Learning takes place when it is most applicable to real life and when it intrigues the learners. Using materials that relate to the learner and reach their interest will produce greater results. Ultimately, learners, regardless of how they learn, require a few things.

There are a few things that facilitate learning. First, posing questions and problems are an effective way to make learning easier. Effectiveness can be measured in how an educator encourages and poses questions. Encouraging questions allows opens the door to higher order, expert level thinking. Posing questions enhances critical thinking ultimately ending with learning. Structure also facilitates learning. Well planned instruction flows easier than sloppy impromptu teaching. Structure allows for molding expected behaviors for how learning should take place. Most importantly, facilitating learning goes beyond the classroom walls. Learning should take place in and out of school. Learning should make real world connections, cross curricular connections, and provide students with a choice to build greater interest in the topic. Understanding textbook knowledge is important. However, learning must be transferable to real life situations and experiences. The goal of learning is not only to know how to learn, but also how to use what you have learned in real life experiences.

There are numerous things that can hinder learning. For example, emotional and social factors can negatively influence learning. Students may have failed a math course before and therefore are “checked out” in other math sessions. Fear of failure in front of peers can hinder learning as well. Educators can also hinder learning. Learning is a two way road. Grouchy teachers produce grouchy learners whereas happy teachers

produce happy learners. Environment can also play role in hindering learning. Learning requires adequate teaching and materials. Materials within the four walls of a classroom can significantly enhance or hinder learning. Classrooms with little to no technology pose harder learning opportunities for learning whereas classrooms with computers or Apple products produce a higher chance of learning. On the contrary, home environments should be favorable to learning as well. Home environments can significantly impact learning. Learning requires a team effort and reinforcement outside of Monday to Friday.

Ultimately, the goal of learning is not only to know how to learn, but also how to use what you have learned appropriately and correctly.