



The Learning Institute

Supporting effective feedback

Overview

Research shows that effective feedback is an important way of supporting the learning process. This CPD task seeks to support practitioners by helping them to understand some key principles of effective feedback practices and how these might be applied.

Target audience

Teaching Assistant

Duration

Approximately 1 hour

The Learning Institute provides opportunities for individuals and communities through high quality education, training and research programmes that challenge personal barriers and promote social inclusion. To find out more, please get in touch.

Introduction

In your role you may need to give learners feedback to support their learning. Do you ever think about how you might structure this feedback so as to maximise their progress?

Providing effective feedback and supporting learners with their understanding of the feedback given by others is known to be a highly effective way of supporting learners in their progression.

This CPD will help you understand some of the research that has been undertaken in this field and highlight some of the most effective strategies that can be utilised. It is intended to help you to reflect on current practices and show you ways that you can help to support effective feedback.

Objectives

- To understand some of the research and theory regarding effective feedback
- To think about some strategies that can support effective feedback
- To reflect on ways to incorporate strategies into practice

Resources

Pen and paper for note taking

Internet access to following:

- Dylan Wiliam: Feedback on learning [video] available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n7Ox5aoZ4ww>
- Dylan Wiliam: Providing feedback that moves learning forward [video] available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vdIk9ysWJXQ>
- 7 ways to enhance feedback to students [article] available at <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/study/learningteaching/learning-and-teaching-support/quickguides/kcl-gg/dl/7ways-improve-feedback-students.pdf>

Task 1: Understanding some of the research associated with effective feedback

This task will help you to understand some of the thinking and research behind what helps children to progress. Professor Dylan Wiliam explains some of the research that has been undertaken regarding effective feedback.

What is effective feedback?

Watch the clip *Dylan Wiliam: Feedback on learning* [3:17mins], available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n7Ox5aoZ4ww>.

Think about these questions and make some notes:

- What does Professor William say about effective feedback?
- How does he define these key terms; ego involving, task involving? Can you think of an example of each?
- Which of these is the most effective according to Professor William?
- What does Professor William say about the conditions for effective feedback?
- According to Professor William, “good feedback causes thinking” – what do you think this means?

Task 2: What should effective feedback focus on?

In this next clip, Professor William explains some feedback strategies which support learner progress.

Watch the clip *Strategy 3 Providing Feedback that Moves Learning Forward* [1:20mins], available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vdIk9ysWJXQ>.

Now think about these questions and make some notes:

- Professor William talks about the fact that comments can be more effective than grades for learners. Why could comments also not be helpful? Can you think of any instances yourself?
- What does Professor William mean when he states too much feedback is backward looking? Why is this a problem?
- What does he suggest feedback should focus on?
- Can you think of some examples of how feedback could achieve this?

Now that some of the theory and strategies that support effective feedback has been examined, think about how these might support the practice.

Read the article *7 ways to enhance feedback to students* by King's College London, available at <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/study/learningteaching/learning-and-teaching-support/quickguides/kcl-qq/dl/7ways-improve-feedback-students.pdf> and think about the following:

- How might you incorporate opportunities to allow learners to reflect on feedback in your practice?
- How could you practically support learners to engage with their feedback?
- How might different groupings support learners in reviewing their work? How might you be able to support this?

Task 3: Reflection on learning

Note down your responses to the following questions:

- What knowledge did I already have that has been refreshed by this CPD?
- How has this CPD developed my knowledge and understanding?
- How can I apply what I now know to my practice?
- Consider how you can record your goals/targets so that you will make use of them when you are able to return to the classroom.

Sources

Education Scotland (2016) *Dylan Wiliam: Feedback on learning*. 15 July. Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n7Ox5aoZ4ww> (Accessed: 1 May 2020)

King's College London (no date) *7 Ways to enhance feedback to students*. Available at <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/study/learningteaching/learning-and-teaching-support/quickguides/kcl-gg/dl/7ways-improve-feedback-students.pdf> (Accessed: 3 May 2020)

Learning Sciences International (2018) *Dylan Wiliam: Strategy 3 Providing feedback that moves learning forward*. 17 September. Available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vdIk9ysWJXQ> (Accessed: 1 May 2020)

Further reading and resources

Education Scotland (2016) *Dylan Wiliam: Assessment strategies*. 15 July. Available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YcJdZGz6ifY> (Accessed: 1 May 2020)

UQx LEARNx Deep Learning through Transformative Pedagogy (2017) *John Hattie: Types and purposes of feedback*. 30 November. Available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CXGt53AGGng> (Accessed: 1 May 2020)

Want to learn more?

If you enjoyed this CPD, you may be interested in our other courses. Find out more on our website:

FdA Learning and Education - www.learninginstitute.co.uk/fdle

Other foundation degrees - www.learninginstitute.co.uk/our-courses

Apprenticeships - www.learninginstitute.co.uk/apprentices