Understanding Adult Learners

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Overview

Participants will understand and utilize strategies that facilitate learning and persevering in adult education.
Objectives

Participants will be able to:

• Identify the Principles of Adult learning and discuss how they are an integral part of creating a safe, accepting and successful learning environment
• Develop strategies for working with, and motivating culturally diverse learners
Agenda

• Introductions
• Ground Rules
• How do adult learners differ from children?
• Keeping Adults motivated
• Scenarios
• Conclusion and Evaluation
Ground Rules

• Listen to each other
• Respect / help each other
  • Be on time
• Turn cell phones off
  • Others?
How Adults Differ From Children

Think/Pair/Share

Do adults **differ** from children in how they learn?

If YES, how?

If NO, how?
Adult Learners

- Want to know why
- Adult learners need to know the reason for learning something

- Vary greatly in education and experience
- Experience (including mistakes) provide the foundation for learning

- Need to be involved in their learning experience
- Need to be involved in the planning and evaluation

- Learn by doing and practicing their skills
- Learn by problem solving rather than just gather info

- Readiness to learn
- Adults need to know the reason for learning something

- Task orientated, need opportunities to practice in the real world
- Learning should have immediate relevance to their goals, work or personal life

- Allow learners to discover on their own – inquiry, problem solving, critical thinking
To Keep Learners Motivated,

They need to have:

• A feeling of competence
• Relevance
• Stability
• A sense of belonging and community
• A clarity of purpose
Scenarios

1) **Your student** talks about a personal choice or perspective that you disagree with or makes you uncomfortable.

2) **You** ask a question or say something that appears to make your student uncomfortable.

3) In your tutoring session you notice your student is quiet and doesn’t ask questions and you find yourself doing most of the talking.
• “The purpose of adult education is to help them learn, not to teach them all you know and thus stop them from learning”

Carl Rogers
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Conclusion / Evaluation

Questions?
Thank you for coming!

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