Guide to Personalised Learning Experiences

Eight Strategies to Implement Personalised Learning Experiences

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4. Empower Student Choice + Voice

In a traditional learning environment, it's not uncommon for students to feel the teacher is responsible for teaching them, not that they're responsible for their own learning. To cultivate a personalised learning environment, offer options and give students a choice for how they'd like to learn a topic. By allowing students to feel they have control over their learning, they make the shift from passive recipient to active owner of their knowledge. Owning their learning naturally leads to greater engagement.

METHODS

Let students make choices over their goals, tasks, pace, process, environment and demonstration of knowledge.

Engage students in self-reflection over the choices they are making.

Broaden a sense of responsibility by having students engage in projects relevant to current events or that matter to the community.

> **Story from the Field**
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> In one school, students are responsible for everything from determining what to do during a particular block of time to running class meetings to preparing and cleaning up after snacks and meals.
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> One teacher shared, "As students show growth, they gain ownership. They don't ask about grades, they see connections between ideas. They are no longer little puppies, they are responsible people. The students themselves can articulate how they have changed. They utilize their freedoms differently. Little tiny nuances of behaviour. Their goals, their plans, become more real."

LAUNCH PAD: TRY THESE PERSONALISED LEARNING ACTIVITIES TODAY

Facilitate Roles and Responsibilities

Let students know what's expected of them. Facilitate a discussion on classroom jobs and encourage students to take responsibility not only for completing tasks but offering suggestions for improvement.

Offer Choices

Give students a choice over with whom, what, where and how they complete their work.

Encourage Feedback

Create a forum for student feedback and recommendations for improvements.

NEXT CHAPTER – Establish Simple Guiding Principles

PREVIOUS CHAPTER – Nurture Trust by Granting Freedom