TeachME Professional Development

Hands-On Teaching and Learning

1. Hands-on learning leverages interactive, engaging educational actions that require the student to:

A. Complete textbook learning at home, on their own time
B. Compile a portfolio of relevant projects to demonstrate their learning
C. Work harder to keep up with their peers
D. Be an active participant in their learning journey

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2. What is the neurological rationale for the importance of hands-on learning?

A. Passive instruction is actually easier for the brain to handle, making tactile learning a challenge
B. Tactile work and relevant, real-world problems engages brains more than passive instruction
C. Passive learning stimulates the amygdala to retain more information
D. Tactile learning does not occur in the brain at all, stimulating muscle learning more directly

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3. Can hands-on learning be used for groups of students?

A. Yes, but it's more effective when attempted alone, so use this strategy in groups with care
B. No; hands-on learning is exclusively helpful when a child is taught alone
C. Yes — and it can help a student learn practical communication and SEL skills, too
D. No, but this makes it a great choice for remote education

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4. How might hands-on learning help a student be more competitive for internships and (later) jobs?

A. Hands-on experience with specific tools or processes is very attractive to future employers
B. Hands-on experience teaches a child that academic work isn't real work
C. Hands-on learning doesn't prepare a child for the workforce at all
D. Hands-on learning is only useful if a future employer has specifically requested it

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5. What are a few ways that hands-on learning can be incorporated for remote students?

A. Requiring remote students to come into the classroom for a few days a month
B. EdTech, remote activities, and strategically-planned community involvement
C. Hands-on learning is strictly an in-person teaching tool
D. Cooking, cleaning, and community events

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6. How might teachers who wish to invest in hands-on learning decorate their classrooms?

A. With minimalistic spaces, with few toys, so as to provide a blank slate
B. With clearly-labeled toys that are accompanied with specific directions for play
C. With open spaces and fun, brightly-colored, tactile objects
D. The way that the teacher sets up the classroom does not matter

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7. Should preschool children be told how to play or guided in open exploration?

A. Children should be told how to play; this helps set expectations for adult life
B. How to play -- this reduces chances for error and keeps children safe
C. Children should just be guided and left to explore for three minutes, and then directed afterwards, so as not to waste time
D. Guided in open exploration — this can help cement their sense of discovery and critical thinking skills

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8. What's a simple way that teachers can provide many of the benefits of hands-on learning without needing to expend the energy or resources associated with revamping entire classrooms?

A. Providing funny, relatable, or dramatic context, so students can connect with the subject matter at hand
B. Bringing one specific prop to class
C. Asking children to imagine that they are completing a specific activity
D. Hands-on learning requires a certain investment level; there are no shortcuts

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9. Why is it sometimes appropriate to give students problems with no clear, defined, or clean answer?

A. Students are better off if they learn frustration early.
B. There is no reason that this is helpful for students.
C. This is more true-to-life, and allows students a little more freedom over the problem-solving process
D. It is often easier for teachers to provide these types of problems.

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10. Why is it a good idea to ask students to help you 'teach' the other students, each in turn?

A. This removes some of the work from a teacher's busy day.
B. Asking students to help teach will help students learn the subject more fully than when they take something in more passively
C. This will create a competition among the students that can only help foster academic growth
D. This is actually a bad practice, and will not help foster hands-on learning

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