



### Approaches to Learning: How we teach is as important as what we teach.



In this **self-paced on-line course** we look at Constructivism as an approach for Teaching and Learning. We will explore the concept that is constructivism and look at how this theory differs from traditional ideas about teaching and learning. We will look at what constructivism has to do with your classroom. We follow the history of constructivism, and how has it changed over time, examine some critical perspectives and try to identify the benefits of constructivism as a valuable approach to learning.

As any classroom is full of questions – those the teacher asks and hopefully the children are asking questions too, we need to be sure we are 'Asking the Right Questions'. Bloom's taxonomy can help us ask better questions and questions that develop childrens' thinking skills.

Later we ask 'What is inquiry-based learning?' An old adage states: "Tell me and I forget, show me and I remember, involve me and I understand." The last part of this statement is the essence of inquiry-based learning. Inquiry implies involvement that leads to understanding and is explored in module 4.

In the module on Cooperative and Collaborative Learning, we'll focus specifically on how this technique for using small, cooperative groups in education can help improve learning in your class.

The course concludes with a look at 'Interdisciplinary Learning' as one of many ways to learn over the course of a curriculum.

The on-line format of the course enables you to **study when and where you want** to learn. Content is divided into 5 modules which you can complete in any order **between July 1st and August 27th 2010**.

Participants are encouraged to interact with one another using the communication tools (forum, chat, e-mail) provided by the CPD College learning system. Active facilitation throughout the course provides expert interaction, guidance and feedback for all participants. Assignments and questions which call for critical reflection, self-analysis and a reasoned response punctuate this highly interactive web based course.

On completion of the course the participant will be presented with their own time record, exercise content and approval by the course facilitator as their CPD record to keep.

**How to register:** enrolments opening soon - [click here to register your interest](#)

**Cost:** €99



#### Learning outcomes:

Participants will be able to differentiate between the distinctive approaches to teaching and learning, from the constructivist approach to inquiry based to collaborative & cooperative learning in the classroom.

Teachers will assess their own approaches to teaching and make adjustments for the coming year in light of their learning on this course. Participating teachers will be more conscious of the questioning techniques they use and will endeavor to use the full spectrum of Blooms taxonomy.

#### Modules:

- 01 - Defining features of Constructivism as an approach to teaching and learning and will have a clearer understanding of the differences between the Constructivist Classroom as opposed to the Traditional Classroom
- 02 - Introduction to Blooms Taxonomy as a fundamental prerequisite to improving questioning techniques in learning.
- 03 - Understanding and appreciation of the quality of learning that takes place in classrooms which are at times organized around Inquiry Based Learning Principles
- 04 - Introduction to collaborative learning as a method of teaching and learning in which students' team together to explore a significant question or create a meaningful project.
- 05 - Introduction to the concept of Interdisciplinary learning: a knowledge view and curriculum approach that consciously applies methodology and language from more than one discipline to examine a central theme, topic, issue, problem or work unit.

**Course duration:** 20 hours  
**Accrediting body:** Department of Education and Science  
**Type of accreditation:** 3 EPV Days

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