Active Insight: Evidence in Action

Tip #308

Clear Learning Intentions

Overview

Learning intentions help students understand the **purpose of a lesson and what they are expected to learn, practise or apply.** When learning intentions are **visible and regularly referenced,** they can help students connect activities to the lesson focus rather than viewing tasks as isolated experiences. Learning intentions can support **reflection, discussion and feedback** by providing a shared point of reference throughout the lesson. Using language such as **identifying, explaining, applying, analysing, justifying or evaluating** can help students understand both what they are learning and how they will demonstrate success.

Key Teaching Ideas

Learning intentions are most useful when students can **see and refer to them throughout the lesson.** Consider **where learning intentions will be displayed and how students will access them during activities.** Display them on a **screen, whiteboard, poster, portable sign or other visible surface** that remains accessible throughout the lesson. Refer back to learning intentions during **demonstrations, questioning, feedback and reflection** so they remain part of the learning process. Encourage students to **explain, analyse, justify or evaluate their learning** in relation to the lesson intention rather than simply recalling what they did.

Practical Application

- **Display learning intentions where students can see them.** Eg: Use a screen, whiteboard, poster, flip chart or portable sign that remains visible throughout the lesson.
- **Take learning intentions outdoors.** Eg: Write them on a large bin, A-frame sign, portable whiteboard or other visible surface when teaching outside.
- **Refer to learning intentions during demonstrations.** Eg: Before modelling a skill or strategy, remind students which part of the learning intention they should be observing.
- **Use learning intentions during questioning.** Eg: Ask students to explain, analyse or justify how the activity connects to the lesson focus.
- **Match learning intentions to the level of thinking required.** Eg: Students may identify and apply in one lesson, while another lesson may require them to analyse, justify or evaluate decisions and performance.

Next Steps

Use The Ultimate PE Program to help further inform your planning. Clear intentions strengthen understanding, engagement, and purposeful learning across physical education lessons.

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