

Conditions for learning

The ideas behind the conditions for learning are based on many years of research on the brain and learning (Hattie, 2009, Caine & Caine, 1997). We now know that learning is a social activity that is influenced by the environment and the engagement of the learner in the process.

In general, we can say that everyone, adults and children, learn well under the following conditions:

1. The environment in the classrooms and the school is positive, safe, and caring, socially and culturally respectful and inclusive.
2. What is being learned is meaningful to the learner and the learner can use what they already know as a basis for gaining new knowledge.
3. What is being learned is appropriate for the developmental level of the learner.
4. What is being learned is challenging, and the learners accept the challenge and are encouraged and supported in taking risks in the learning process.
5. The learners see themselves as successful in the learning process with opportunities to learn in their own way, make choices, and feel in control.
6. The learners have opportunities for social interaction and helpful feedback during the learning process.

In summary:

Learning is a process of figuring things out, asking questions, making connections, getting ideas and testing them, taking risks, making mistakes, without fear of ridicule or embarrassment, trying again and eventually experiencing the satisfaction of accomplishment.

(Priesnitz, 2009)