

TDA37-1.3 Explain the characteristics and principles of assessment for learning

The different characteristics of assessment for learning are:

- Children are given targets so that they know and understand what they should be working towards.
- Self-assessment/peer assessment will help children to identify their next steps.
- By providing constructive feedback, we are identifying both strengths and areas for improvements.
- Observation of pupils will inform staff of their level of understanding and so plans for next steps.
- By setting and displaying learning outcomes children and staff know what is expected.

Assessment for learning should.....

1. Be part of effective planning of teaching and learning.

So that we can adjust planning to the child's understanding.

Also to be able to plan according to different types of abilities.

2. Focus on how students learn.

Children learn in different ways e.g visual, auditory, reading/writing and kinaesthetic.

So this should be considered when planning activities in order to provide appropriate learning opportunity.

3. Be recognised as central to classroom practice.

The teacher/teaching assistant will constantly use formative assessment to inform their planning and next steps for each child.

A plenary is an ideal way to assess children's understanding during a focused activity.

4. Be regarded as a key professional skill for teachers.

It allows the teacher to assess the knowledge of a child in order to plan effectively.

Because it is such an important skill it is an important part of teacher training.

5. Be sensitive and constructive because any assessment has an emotional impact.

Comments should always be positive and constructive in order to build a child's self-esteem.

If a negative comment is needed it should be phrased carefully with consideration to the child. e.g maybe next we could do it this way or could you think of a better way to do that?

6. Take account of learner motivation.

A child will feel motivated to learn if they are given positive encouragement in order to reach their learning goals.

7. Promote commitment to learning goals and a shared understanding of the criteria by which they are assessed.