Curriculum Planning Guidelines, Phase 1
Department of Education
Building Knowledge of Student Learning Initiatives
Activity 3 Worksheet: Familiarisation - Principles of Learning & Teaching P–12-

1. Working in pairs, read through all 6 Principles of Learning and Teaching P-12 in the left hand column.
2. Now read through the descriptors in the right hand column, which are not in order.
3. Draw a line linking each Principle to the matching descriptor.
4. Read the Principles of Learning and Teaching P-12 to check your accuracy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLT P–12</th>
<th>Descriptors</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. The learning environment is supportive and productive.</td>
<td>Student learning needs to connect with their current and future lives, and with contemporary thinking in the broader community. A variety of links are made between the classroom program and the local and broader community, leading to students developing a rich view of knowledge and practice, including social and ethical issues. This Principle concerns relevance and connectedness, and also the communal nature of learning.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. The learning environment promotes independence, interdependence and self motivation.</td>
<td>Students are challenged to explore, question and engage with significant ideas and practices, so that they move beyond superficial understandings to develop higher order, flexible thinking. To support this, teaching sequences should be sustained and responsive and explore ideas and practices.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Students’ needs, backgrounds, perspectives and interests are reflected in the learning program.</td>
<td>The teacher builds positive relationships with and values each student. Through teacher modelling and classroom strategies based on cooperation and mutual support, an environment is created where students feel comfortable to pursue inquiries and express themselves. They take responsibility for their learning and are prepared to pursue and try out new ideas.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Students are challenged and supported to develop deep levels of thinking and application.</td>
<td>A range of strategies is used to monitor and respond to students’ different learning needs, social needs, and cultural perspectives. Students’ lives and interests are reflected in the learning sequences. A variety of teaching strategies are used to accommodate the range of abilities and interests, and to encourage diversity and autonomy.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Assessment practices are an integral part of teaching and learning.</td>
<td>Teachers model practices that build independence and motivate students to work in an autonomous manner. Students are involved in decision making within the classroom in relation to what and how they learn and are encouraged to take responsibility for their learning. Team building skills are also explicitly taught so that students learn to collaborate, negotiate and contribute to joint assignments and experience the sharing of roles, responsibilities and ownership.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Learning connects strongly with communities and practice beyond the classroom.</td>
<td>Assessment contributes to planning at a number of levels. Monitoring of student learning is continuous and encompasses a variety of aspects of understanding and practice. Assessment criteria are explicit and feedback is designed to support students’ further learning and encourage them to monitor and take responsibility for their own learning.</td>
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**Principles of Learning and Teaching P-12**

Students learn best when:

1. **The learning environment is supportive and productive.**
   *In learning environments that reflect this principle the teacher:*
   1. builds positive relationships through knowing and valuing each student
   2. promotes a culture of value and respect for individuals and their communities
   3. uses strategies that promote students’ self-confidence and willingness to take risks with their learning
   4. ensures each student experiences success through structured support, the valuing of effort, and recognition of their work.

2. **The learning environment promotes independence, interdependence and self motivation.**
   *In learning environments that reflect this principle the teacher:*
   1. encourages and supports students to take responsibility for their learning
   2. uses strategies that build skills of productive collaboration.

3. **Students’ needs, backgrounds, perspectives and interests are reflected in the learning program.**
   *In learning environments that reflect this principle the teacher:*
   1. uses strategies that are flexible and responsive to the values, needs and interests of individual students
   2. uses a range of strategies that support the different ways of thinking and learning
   3. builds on students’ prior experiences, knowledge and skills
   4. capitalises on students’ experience of a technology rich world.

4. **Students are challenged and supported to develop deep levels of thinking and application.**
   *In learning environments that reflect this principle the teacher:*
   1. plans sequences to promote sustained learning that builds over time and emphasises connections between ideas
   2. promotes substantive discussion of ideas
   3. emphasises the quality of learning with high expectations of achievement
   4. uses strategies that challenge and support students to question and reflect
   5. uses strategies to develop investigating and problem solving skills
   6. uses strategies to foster imagination and creativity.

5. **Assessment practices are an integral part of teaching and learning.**
   *In learning environments that reflect this principle the teacher:*
   1. designs assessment practices that reflect the full range of learning program objectives
   2. ensures that students receive frequent constructive feedback that supports further learning
   3. makes assessment criteria explicit
   4. uses assessment practices that encourage reflection and self assessment
   5. uses evidence from assessment to inform planning and teaching.

6. **Learning connects strongly with communities and practice beyond the classroom.**
   *In learning environments that reflect this principle the teacher:*
   1. supports students to engage with contemporary knowledge and practice
   2. plans for students to interact with local and broader communities
   3. uses technologies in ways that reflect professional and community practices.

More information about the Principles of Learning and Teaching P-12 can be viewed at:
[Department of Education - Student Learning - Principles of Learning and Teaching](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/studentlearning/teachingprinciples/default.htm)