

IDENTIFYING EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION

Characteristics of Experiential Education:

Experiential education is described with a holistic philosophy, where carefully chosen experiences support learning through:

- reflection
- critical analysis and synthesis
- taking initiative
- making decisions
- being accountable for the results

Learning and meaning making in experiences occurs through:

- actively posing questions
- investigating and experimenting
- being curious and creative
- solving problems
- assuming responsibility
- constructing meaning
- integrating previously developed knowledge

Principles of Experiential Education:

1. Full engagement of the learner and teacher – mind, body, spirit.
2. Motivation and encouragement are regularly provided to the learner.
3. Many opportunities for practice and fine tuning are offered – also known as iterative practice.
4. Successes and partial successes are celebrated.
5. Learner and supporters share some desired outcomes.
6. Support from others
7. Positive failure – learning is the result of trying then refining, so often not occurring on the first attempt.