



# 5 BEST WAYS

## To engage your learners

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LEARN | GROW | DEVELOP



# You're Not Alone!

If you're struggling to engage with learners in your classroom, you're not alone. Thousands of educators across the country face the same issues every day. In this article, we're going to take a look at our five favourite ways to engage with learners and deliver effective educational outcomes. Here they are.



## Connection before content

When you think back to your educational experience at school, what do you remember first? The content of the lessons or the personality of the teacher? For most of us, we look back at our best experiences being delivered by teachers we liked and respected.

While the content of lessons is important, it's the relationship with students that makes all the difference to delivery. Building meaningful connections with learners is a potent way to create a productive learning environment. When learners engage with you as a person, they're much more likely to come with you on an exploratory adventure, no matter what the topic.



## Build narrative into your lessons

One of the reasons that students become disgruntled with their work is that they can't see the usefulness of what they're learning.

How many times have you heard the questions asked, "how will this help me in real life?"

Instead of just brushing it off as unimportant, teachers must answer it. Children need to know why they need to invest so much time, effort and energy into their education. They need to understand, for instance, why Pythagoras's theorem is so important, or why they need to be able to evaluate a text. The better you can motivate them with story and context, the more natural and engaging they will find the learning experience.







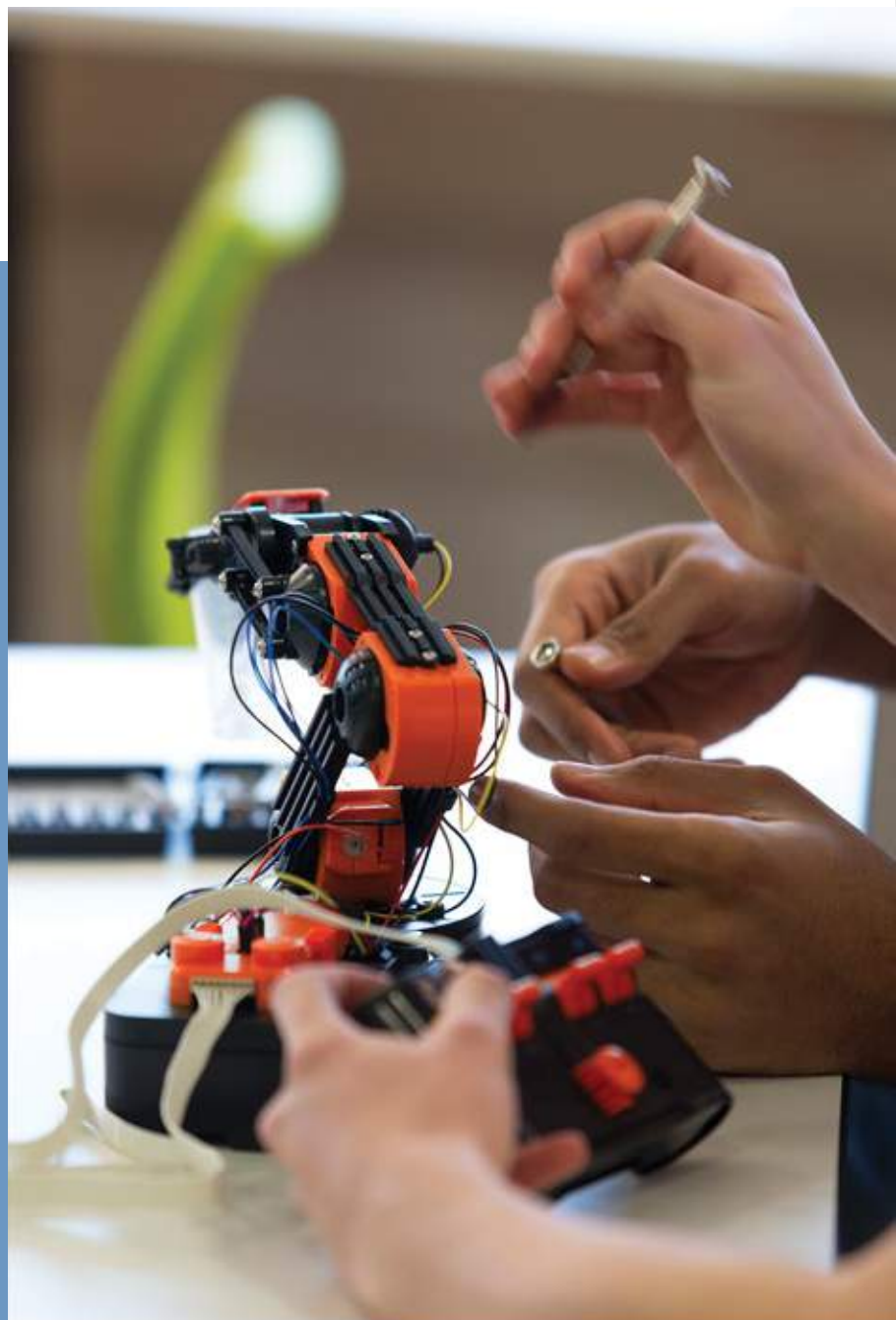
## Make learning fun

While some children thrive with a chalk and talk approach, most don't. The majority of students struggle to find school subjects compelling in their own right. They need the help of the teacher to introduce an element of fun into their learning activities. Educators, therefore, need to improvise to find ways to make seemingly dry subjects into something that students can enjoy.

## Ensure learning is active

Research shows that active learning is the most effective. It's hard for children to learn passively, and it shouldn't be the dominant approach.

- Active learning is all about high energy levels and movement. Here are some ideas:
- Get students to physically line up to demonstrate where they stand on an issue
- Start using concept mapping where you get students to step away from their individual perspectives and organise ideas in groups
- Get students to share real-time reactions to a lecture or video
- Introduce students to peer review and get them to evaluate the work of their classmates



# Allow for brain breaks

The human brain requires time to consolidate what it's learned. Students, therefore, need a break now and then from intense learning activities and to focus on something else. Instead of dedicating all of the available lesson time to learning content, use icebreakers and other human connection activities to get students working together more effectively.



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