Constructivism

Shirley J. Caruso, M. A. Human Resource Development

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Constructivism

• Constructivism Defined
• Three Categories of Constructivism
• Designing Instruction to Include Constructivism
• Constructivist Classrooms vs. Traditional Classrooms
• Benefits to Constructivism
• Review/Questions and Answers
Constructivism Defined

- Latin cōnstruere, to pile up (from Merriam-Webster Online).
- To form by assembling or combining parts; build (from Merriam-Webster Online)
What is Constructivism

• Learners develop principles by themselves
• Existing knowledge and experiences of learners
• Primary contributors include Piaget and Vygotsky

Assimilation and Accommodation

Sociocultural Theory
Three Categories of Constructivism

• Individual-knowledge is constructed by learners
• Social-learning is collaborative
• Contextualism-learning should take place in genuine environments
Designing Instruction to include Constructivism

• Activities to encourage experiential learning
• Build learning upon learners’ existing knowledge
• Deliver learning at current comprehension level
Constructivism Classroom

- Curriculum begins with and emphasizes Main Concepts
- Students’ questions and ideas are valued
- Learning is interactive-building on what learners already know
Constructivist Classroom

• Teachers role is interactive
• Assessment includes learners’ work, observation and viewpoints
Traditional Classroom

Main Idea

Learners are the recipients of knowledge

Concepts

Strict adherence to curriculum is highly valued

Supporting Details

Curriculum begins with parts of the Main Concept, emphasizing basic skills
Traditional Classroom

• Teachers role is directive
• Assessment is through testing for correct answers
Benefits of Constructivism

• Promotes social and communication skills
• Learners own the material they have learned
• Learners easily transfer learning into new experiences
Question for You

• Can you think of some learning situations in which constructivism would not be beneficial?
Review

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Resources


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