

Follow, Don't Lead!

Texas Home School Coalition Convention
#THSCcon

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How do you teach?

- Textbook
- List of goals
- Unschooling
- Co-op

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What do you teach?

- Literature
- Grammar
- Science
- Social Studies
- Math

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Motivation

"Being able to motivate students is key. And giving them grades *[for candy, stickers, etc.]*, or timing them to get them to work faster— those can sometimes help with routine, rule-based, singularly logical problems...

(External Motivation)

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Motivation

"But for conceptual problems, for the important creative tasks that kids need to contemplate and work through, those basic rewards only narrow students' focus. And they backfire."

- Dan Pink, *Drive*

(Internal/Intrinsic Motivation)

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Intrinsic Motivation

- Autonomy
- Mastery
- Purpose

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Encouraging Autonomy

- Children create a Learning Journal
 - Binder or spiral
 - Print outs of goals/ concepts with room to write/draw

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The Learning Journal

- What does this concept mean to you?
 - I can... (I will be able to...)
 - I know... (I will understand...)
 - If you give me ____ then I can ____.
- Use examples get started and/or keep the flow
- What kinds of things can we do or use to learn more about this?

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The Learning Journal

- What does this concept mean to you, *today*?
- How is this different from yesterday?
- Have you seen new examples?
- What kinds of things can we do or use to learn more about this?

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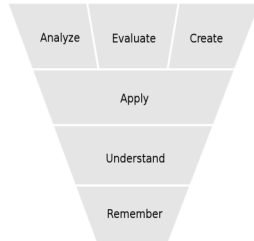
Encouraging Mastery

- Give them time to do more practice or dig in deeper.
- Encourage them to explore.

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Encouraging Mastery

- Focusing on too many concepts forces them to stay at a low level



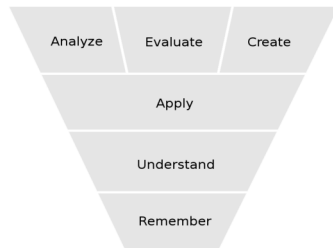
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Encouraging Mastery

- Determine what they really *must* learn
- Decide the nice-to-learn concepts

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Encouraging Mastery



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Encouraging Mastery

If they have a deeper understanding of a small piece of a subject, they'll be able to _____ the rest!

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Seeing Purpose

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Seeing Purpose

- Classic question:
 - When will I ever use this?

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Seeing Purpose

- If you're a _____ when
profession of someone in room
you grow up, you'll use math.
- People in _____ line of
profession of someone in room
work use math.

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Seeing Purpose

Classic question means:

"I bet you can't convince me that I will ever need this, so let's start a fight. After all, I'm annoyed when you try to teach me stuff I'm uncomfortable with so I might as well see if I can make you uncomfortable and annoyed too."

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Seeing Purpose

- You won't ever use this.
 - Takes the pressure off.
 - "We're just going to have some fun."
 - They're resistant (remember autonomy) but they'll eventually get curious.

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Seeing Purpose

- In fact, you already use this.
 - Turns the question around
 - Builds confidence

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