

# The Critical Skills Programme



## Professional Development Course

### Critical Skills Level One – Transforming Learning –

*The Critical Skills training courses were thorough and inspiring. Teachers were overwhelmingly enthusiastic about them. It is a programme which empowers teachers and pupils ... enhances pupils' learning ... preparing children for adult life in the 21st Century. The training of teachers is excellent... they actually carry out what they've learned in the classroom.*

Professor Ted Wragg, 2004

This interactive and transformational experience supports the development of effective learning and teaching strategies and their underpinning principles. Level One Critical Skills training is comprised of two three day intensive training sessions, with some months of classroom practice in between.



Throughout the course participants develop a wide range of teaching strategies, exploring how relationships are built and how communication with others can be developed specifically for learning purposes. It also supports the creation of a learning environment which motivates, challenges and engages both the teacher and the learner. Participants have the opportunity to investigate the potential that collaboration has to enhance the achievements of both individuals and groups, focusing on the design of learning activities which support the whole learner - assessing progress in skills, subjects and attitudes to learning.

Critical Skills activities are based on an experiential cycle of improvement and provide practical approaches for the development of a shared understanding for students of what constitutes quality and standards for all aspects of learning. It is an inclusive approach which successfully supports the development of skills and attitudes for learners at all phases.



## Participants can expect to leave 'Transforming Learning' with...

- A wide range of practical strategies to support the creation of a collaborative learning community
- Techniques for effective pupil grouping.
- Strategies to embed formative assessment techniques, including the use of self and peer assessment to offer insights and challenge assumptions.
- Observation and feedback techniques for the collation and analysis of high quality assessment information to support learning and provide a formative and holistic assessment profile.
- A secure understanding of the design of problem solving, group challenges which integrate different aspects of the curriculum.
- An understanding of the core principles underpinning the strategies and techniques explored throughout the course.

In addition to having the opportunity to explore a broad range of strategies to advance Personalised Learning each participant will leave with activities planned specifically for transferral into their own setting.



## What Others Have Said:

*CSP is the most practical and exciting initiative that I've experienced in education for many years. It has radically revitalised my enthusiasm for teaching.*

Don Carlisle-Kitts, Secondary Teacher, Edinburgh

*The school's involvement in the 'critical skills' programme has made a significant contribution to improvements in the quality of teaching. Effective techniques from this programme which were observed in the lessons, included the involvement of pupils in establishing criteria for their behaviour and learning, the development of independence through group work, and the regular presentations by the pupils to their peers.*

HMI report on Laisterdyke High School, Bradford

*The Critical Skills Programme.. embodies all of the elements of creativity. (Our) teachers have rated the training very highly and it clearly alters practice.*

Alastair Horne, 5-18 Adviser, Angus Council



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