

The Critical Skills Programme



Professional Development Course

Critical Skills Level Two – Assessment, Quality and Progression –

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

The Critical Skills Level Two Institute is a stimulating three day professional development programme in which practitioners learn to make effective links between curriculum activities and create a continuous improvement cycle in order to promote long term learning goals.



The focus of the three days is on designing challenge based learning opportunities and integrated strategies for the formative assessment of the knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes. It supports the shift from a reliance on specific assessment tools and techniques to practices based on deep principles integrated into the flow of lessons.

Special emphasis is placed on the use of developmental continua as powerful formative assessment tools, which enable teachers and students to monitor progression and record development of knowledge, skills and attitudes.

It provides practical strategies to support the development of effective learning and teaching so that learners understand quality and how to improve.



Participants can expect to leave 'Assessment, Quality and Progression' with...

- A sophisticated understanding of the connections between the Critical Skills model and the curriculum framework, with opportunities to design curriculum based activities for use in their own setting
- The knowledge and skill required to turn the curriculum into a sequence of Challenges which are linked in varied and creative ways to stimulate student involvement and learning and to create a continuous improvement cycle
- Techniques to collect and analyse information, identifying trends and clear goals for improvement.
- A repertoire of tools and techniques appropriate for assessing the student performance and progression and an understanding of assessment fit for purpose linked to curriculum aims, progress in skills, subjects and dimensions.
- Experience of designing and applying developmental continua which enable practitioners and students to monitor progression and development of knowledge, skills and attitudes.
- Strategies for building and maintaining a learning community which supports collaborative working and effective group work
- An expanded set of basic tools and techniques for coaching or guiding groups and individuals through a sequence of linked Challenges and activities.



What Others Have Said:

CSP is a powerful, systematic and inspirational programme which successfully integrates the cognitive, social and emotional preconditions for effective learning. It is applicable from the nursery classroom to the post-graduate seminar, from the smallest primary school to the most diverse education authority. If you take your leadership role seriously, whatever your level of responsibility, then this programme - grounded in reflective practice - is for you.

Mason Minnitt, Director, Barrow Community Learning Partnership

The Critical Skills Programme supports effective practice that is assessment for learning. In a CSP classroom assessment for learning becomes a process which happens with learners and teachers, for learners and teachers, rather than something which is done to learners by teachers.

Di Pardoe, Learning Coach and Freelance Training and Consultancy

How CSP facilitates the development of formative assessment is both refreshing and exciting... I am, for the first time, now able to see how formative assessment can be placed at the heart of the educational process - where it always should have been.

Phil Rowlands, Headteacher Pentre Primary School Rhondda

This course has totally changed my attitude to teaching... At last, a real-life model that addresses so many issues effortlessly and actually works

Dave Evans, Trevethin Community School, Cwmbran



Contacts

Maggie Clark
Programme Manager
for Scotland
maggie@criticalskills.co.uk
07969 172336

Andrew Pearce
Programme Manager
for Wales
andrew@criticalskills.co.uk
07950 554200

Pippa Leslie
Programme Manager
for England and
The Channel Islands
Pippa@criticalskills.co.uk
07799 831849

Jo Morrison
Programme Manager
for England and
the Channel Islands
jo@criticalskills.co.uk
07960 116699