

How to play when you don't know all the rules

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It is widely discussed that physical education is missed out on in primary schools because of a lack of confidence and/or competence in teachers

Fortunately the current curriculum promotes five key competencies that teachers can use to put students at the front of physical education

Key Competencies

Thinking;
Using language, symbols, and texts;
Managing self;
Relating to others;
Participating and contributing.

How do we shift from less of this....



To more of this....



What were some significant differences between those two environments?

As adults we undoubtedly
contribute a lot to the learning
and development of young
people...

However, might we also inhibit
them at times as well?

What types of....

- ▶ Decisions do they have to make?
- ▶ Negotiations do they have to attempt?
- ▶ Behaviours do they have to consider?
- ▶ Fairness do they need to be aware of?

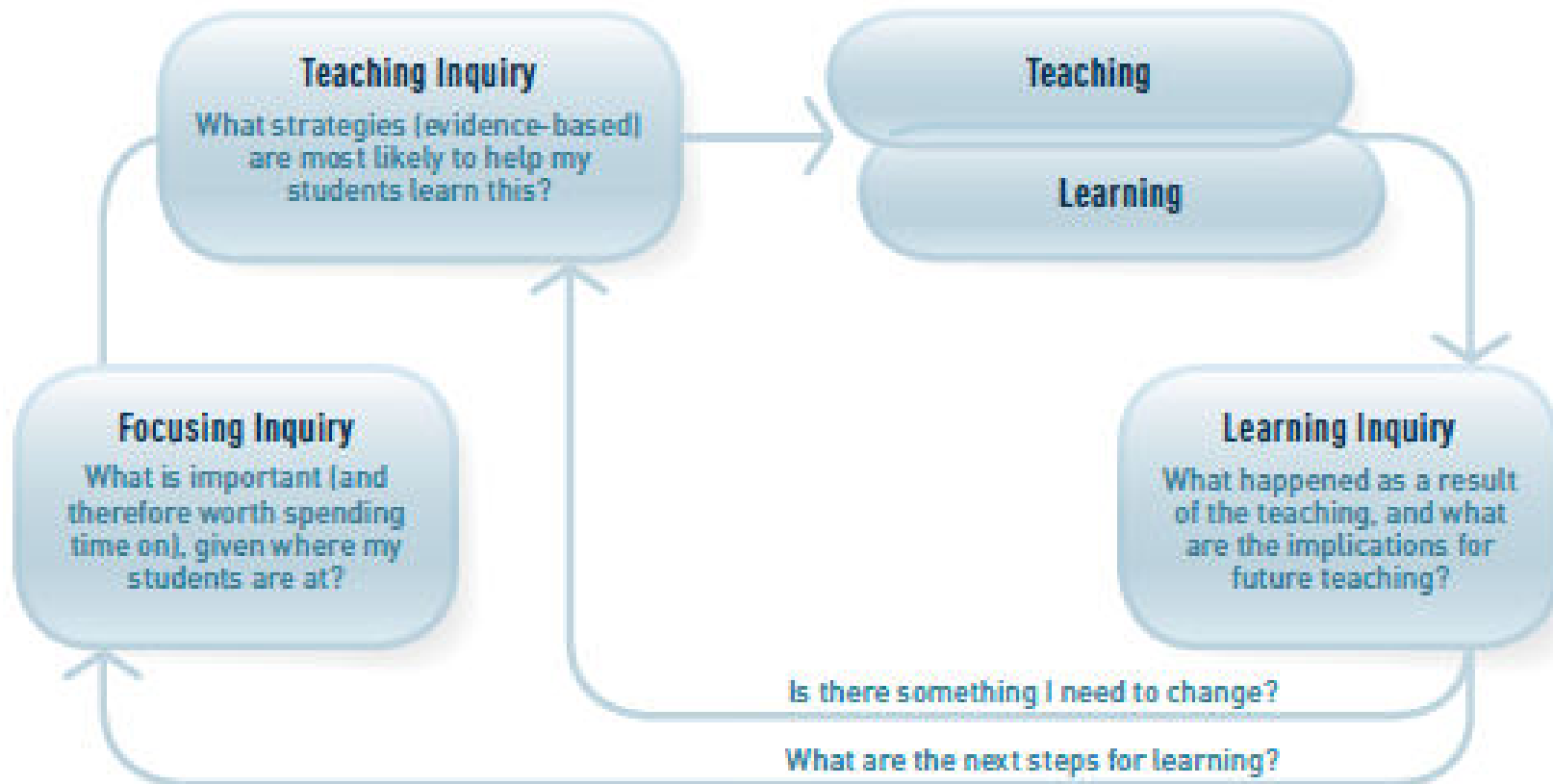
If the teacher is always telling them what to do, where to do it, and how it is supposed to be done?

So how do we encourage these things in our students?

And can we use the Key Competencies to encourage this?

- ▶ Thinking
- ▶ Using language, symbol, and texts
- ▶ Managing self
- ▶ Relating to others
- ▶ Participating and contributing

Teaching as Inquiry



Let's see what this might look like...

- ▶ In groups, develop an activity that can be done focussing on the game/sport you've been assigned.
- ▶ Consider how you will get the participants to lead the majority of the activity.
- ▶ Especially consider how you will allow for maximum participation and engagement given the: number of participants / different skill levels / varying levels of enthusiasm / etc within the group of participants.

Things to consider when planning for student driven activity:

- ▶ Group size (preferably small sided activities)
- ▶ Space available (encourage students to be sensible with their space)
- ▶ Equipment available (definitely won't work with 1 ball and 4 cones)
- ▶ Questioning (respond to student questions with a question rather than an answer)

And remember that,

“If you’re doing nothing
and they’re doing
everything, you’ve done
everything!”

I did not make this quote up and have no idea where I heard it but think it is very fitting for the physical education environment in many cases. I’d like to think it was somebody very profound like Socrates, Ghandi, or Mother Theresa but it most likely was not. I’d also like to think it was somebody much smarter than George Bush Jr. or Donald Trump.