



Learning & Teaching

NEWSLETTER

The Value of Professional Reading

Professional reading is crucial and valuable for teachers for several reasons:

1. **Staying Current:** The field of education is constantly evolving, with new theories, methodologies, technologies, and policies regularly emerging. Professional reading helps teachers stay informed about the latest trends and changes, ensuring their teaching methods are up-to-date
2. **Professional Development:** Regular reading contributes to continuous professional development. It enables teachers to expand their knowledge base, improve their instructional strategies, and enhance their classroom management skills.
3. **Enhancing Student Outcomes:** By staying informed about the latest research on learning styles, cognitive development, and pedagogical techniques, teachers can adapt their instruction to better meet the needs of their students. This can lead to improved student outcomes.
4. **Inspiration and Motivation:** Professional reading can expose teachers to fresh ideas and perspectives, providing inspiration for lesson plans, classroom activities, and teaching methods. It can also re-ignite passion and enthusiasm for teaching.
5. **Critical Reflection:** Reading the latest research and theoretical perspectives can prompt teachers to reflect critically on their own practices. This reflection can lead to modifications and improvements in their teaching.
6. **Collaboration and Communication:** Professional reading can provide a common ground for discussions with colleagues, fostering a collaborative environment. It can also help teachers communicate more effectively with parents, administrators, and other stakeholders about educational strategies and student needs.

This newsletter offers a brief synopsis of three recommended books that focus on pedagogy. Click the links to find them on Amazon.



Outstanding Teaching: Teaching Backwards

This is a transformative book by Andy Griffith and Mark Burns. The authors challenge conventional teaching methods by advocating for a "backwards" approach to teaching. This method begins by defining the desired outcomes or goals ('What does success in this lesson look like?') and then designing the learning journey to achieve these goals.

The book is the sequel to the best-selling book 'Outstanding Teaching: Engaging Learners'. It leverages insights gleaned from thousands of hours of primary and secondary lessons, part of Osiris Educational's Outstanding Teaching Intervention programme.

Teachers who adopt this backwards methodology are clear about the attitudes, skills, and habits they want their students to possess from the start. They plan their lessons with these end goals in mind, ensuring that every step taken is towards achieving these objectives.

Griffith and Burns have struck a balance between providing thought-provoking insights and practical strategies for classroom implementation. They offer teachers numerous ways to become more rigorous, disciplined, and investigative in their lesson planning and instructional delivery.

In summary, 'Outstanding Teaching: Teaching Backwards' offers an innovative and effective approach to teaching and learning. It provides educators with practical ideas that can easily be incorporated into the classroom, making it an essential read for those seeking to enhance their teaching practices.



RECOMMENDED

Rosenshine's Principles in Action

'[Rosenshine's Principles in Action](#)' by Tom Sherrington is a practical guide that translates Barak Rosenshine's famous 'Principles of Instruction' into actionable strategies for teachers. The book aims to help educators understand and apply these principles in their day-to-day teaching.

The book breaks down the ten principles, which are research-based strategies that effective teachers use, including reviewing previous learning, providing models, checking for understanding, and practising to mastery.

Sherrington presents each principle in a digestible and user-friendly manner, providing real-world examples and demonstrating how each can be implemented in the classroom. He also discusses potential challenges that teachers may face and offers possible solutions.

The book is a valuable resource for teachers seeking to improve their instructional effectiveness and student outcomes. It provides a clear road map for adopting evidence-based teaching strategies, making it an essential read for both new and experienced educators.



RECOMMENDED

THE TEACHING DELUSION 3: POWER UP YOUR PEDAGOGY

'[The Teaching Delusion 3: Power Up Your Pedagogy](#)' is the third book in Bruce Robertson's acclaimed series, 'The Teaching Delusion'. Robertson, the Rector of Berwickshire High School in the Scottish Borders, presents a compelling critique of the common pitfalls in teacher feedback systems, and offers valuable strategies for self-improvement.

The book addresses the issue of teachers often receiving ineffective feedback, which can hinder their professional development. Robertson emphasises that teachers are eager to improve their teaching practices and value the opportunity to learn from their peers.

In this book, Robertson continues to challenge pedagogical misconceptions, just as he did in his previous works. He provides practical advice on how to 'power up' pedagogy, drawing on his extensive experience as a chemistry teacher and school leader.

The book offers insights into improving teaching practices, advocating for peer observation and constructive, actionable feedback. It provides readers with tools and strategies to enhance their teaching efficacy and ultimately, student outcomes.

In summary, 'The Teaching Delusion 3: Power Up Your Pedagogy' serves as a valuable resource for teachers seeking to enhance their instructional skills and classroom effectiveness. The book is a call to action for educators to take charge of their professional development and to embrace the power of effective feedback.

