

Activity 1.3: Choosing 'dual-purpose' activities for learners

Materials needed

Sets of materials for running How do you feel today? (See Activities for learners ring binder) or an alternative activity.

Instructions

Learners need to be engaged in doing things that are motivating and relevant. This means that tutors need to choose an activity that can both interest the learner and provide them with opportunities to develop personal and social skills. We have termed these activities 'dual purpose' activities. Explain that this session will help tutors analyse the potential for activities to become 'dual purpose' activities.

1. Explain how the aim is to experience an activity that could be used with learners, and to analyse the personal and social skills involved in doing that activity.
2. Ask participants to form groups of three or four around tables.
3. Provide a set of materials for each table.
4. Invite them to complete the activity How do you feel today?
5. Identify the personal and social skills learners might demonstrate while doing the activity.
6. Discuss the materials participants currently use as vehicles for assessing personal and social skills. Encourage the use of 'dual-purpose' activities.

Self-study suggestions: activity 1.3

1. Take the materials for How do you feel today? from the Activities for learners ring binder, or else select an activity of your own.
2. Work through the activity as if for real. If you can persuade someone to do it with you, so much the better. If you have children, you might like to try it out on them and observe them doing it.
3. Identify the personal and social skills you used, or observed others using, while doing the activity.
4. Look up activities in the Activities for learners ring binder, and study the lists of skills that might be used in each one.
5. Review activities that you use. What personal and social skills would a learner use when doing them?
6. Look for opportunities to include 'dual-purpose' activities in the programme you offer learners. Make a list and draw up observation sheets to suit the activity.