

## Information for teachers

### Teacher Effectiveness

Prepared by Dr Angela Wilson, Senior Research Fellow, CHERI

Teachers are busy people and they want ideas that can be implemented easily in the classroom and that are known to be effective.

This handout is an attempt to identify some factors and strategies that are known to help primary and secondary students learn if implemented by teachers. They can be of benefit to all students in a class, not just those students who may present with learning difficulties.

Factors that help students learn include some of the following:

- creating a positive, warm, and supportive environment in the classroom where each student feels comfortable and academically challenged
- greeting students at the beginning of each lesson and farewelling them at the conclusion of the lesson by the teacher
- beginning lessons with a brief review of previously learned skills or prerequisite skills
- presenting new work in small, manageable steps, and giving students the opportunity to practise after each step
- inspiring enjoyment of the task or activity, the fun of learning something new, different or interesting
- having teachers who enjoy teaching and who respond to the humour, ideas and laughter of their students
- caring and understanding teachers who treat all students impartially but not necessarily equally, and with respect and dignity
- challenging students to learn something new or different with a high rate of success
- having an active and creative role in the learning process
- allowing students to learn at their own pace and in their own time frame, but with a gentle, encouraging "push" along the way
- applying a little pressure but not too much – there needs to be some challenge in the task or activity presented
- encouraging learning for the sake of learning and not to complete an assignment or project within a specified time frame
- helping students stay on task by using such strategies as visual proximity, visual scanning and key or cue words to aid understanding
- encouraging students to take responsibility for their own learning
- encouragement from others, especially those whose views and opinions are respected by the learner, for example, parents and other teachers
- support from friends and the peer group, academically and socially
- being a helpful teacher who will answer questions, encourage discussion, check understanding, and provide systematic feedback
- creating and involving the students in a collaborative learning environment at school
- encouraging and cultivating patience in students
- periodically reminding students of the rules for behaving appropriately
- giving clear instructions and details about what is to be learnt and understood
- creating a nice place to work or study, that is free of distractions and noise, although some students do work well with background music
- creating a place that each student can call his or her own, where books and materials can be kept safely and accessed easily.

### For more Information

If you require further information please contact:

CHERI  
The Children's Hospital at Westmead  
Locked Bag 4001  
Westmead NSW 2145

Tel: (02) 9845 0418  
Fax: (02) 9845 0421  
Email: [info@cheri.com.au](mailto:info@cheri.com.au)

Disclaimer: This fact sheet is for personal use only. Please consult with other professionals, where appropriate, to ensure this information is suitable for your needs.

