

BRAIN GYM

Remodel the system: Aussies reveal what they think of today's modern schools

Key Takeways

1. Teaching a classroom full of students who have different learning abilities is just one of the many challenges teachers face. And the practical realities of teaching means teachers are often forced to "teach to the middle", resulting in some kids getting left behind while others aren't a challenged.....
2. New Flinders research suggests artificial intelligence is already quietly stepping in to help teachers help kids. A study of Australian student teachers found AI tools like ChatGPT are being used during teaching placements to help move away from "one-size-fits-all" lessons.
3. The findings suggest AI isn't replacing teachers, but it may be giving the next generation a better way to deliver more targeted and more academically inclusive education.

[Take me to this article](#)

This Week's Mini PD

Teaching Students to Think When the Answer Is One Click Away

Rekha Tak Magon is a Canadian education innovator who recently shared on Instagram **"7 practical ways to help children build the muscle for independent thinking instead of just following instructions."** Perhaps it is very timely for us as educators. In classrooms increasingly shaped by instant information and AI-generated answers, the skill of genuine, independent thought is at risk of quietly atrophying. The good news is it's one we can actively protect.

The most useful shift of Magon's framework is: **independent thinking isn't a trait some students have and others lack. It's a habit built through deliberate practice**, and teachers are as well-placed as parents to build it.

A few of Magon's ideas translate directly into classroom practice. **Let them question you** - a student who can respectfully challenge a teacher's reasoning is developing the same muscle needed to challenge weak arguments anywhere else. Sit in **"I don't know"** together - modelling genuine inquiry, rather than always supplying the answer, teaches students that not-knowing is a starting point, not a failure. **Make them argue the side they can't stand** is a simple but powerful device for building both sharper reasoning and real empathy.

Perhaps most relevant to current practice is the call to teach students to **doubt the machine**. "ChatGPT said so" is fast becoming the new "I read it online" - a conversation-ending justification rather than a starting point for inquiry. Our job isn't to ban the tool, but to teach students to interrogate its output rather than accept it.

Finally, the framework reminds us to **protect curiosity like it's fragile**; because it is! Every dismissed question in a busy classroom is a small cost to a student's willingness to keep asking.

None of this requires new resources, just a shift in how we respond to questions, uncertainty, and disagreement in our daily interactions with students.

Drop of Wisdom

YOU DON'T PLAN YOUR
FUTURE. YOU PLAN
YOUR ACTIONS TODAY
AND THOSE ACTIONS
CREATE YOUR FUTURE.

SAHIL BHAM

Insight

Meditation can help and it can harm. This is what happens when it goes wrong

This article offers insights that should be considered by every school that offers meditation activities to students or other members of the school community.

[Read more here](#)

Happy, Silly Thoughts

Some days you
inspire young people
to change the world.
Other days you
celebrate because
everyone
remembered a pencil

Disclaimer: This information is not intended to replace the advice of appropriate relevant qualified practitioners.

DMD Education Resource Services and Vital Staff Newsletter disclaim any liability for the decisions you make based upon this information.