

PD Learning Activity Examples

Listed below are strategies used with adult learners to promote active, engaging professional development experiences. Choose from this list of possibilities or add your own ideas, making sure that the strategy fits well with the PD learning goal so as to avoid PD that is unfocused, or activity driven.

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| Learning Activity Examples: Aligned to KASAB (Knowledge)                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                          |
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| <b>Teachers can:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                          |
| Research resources<br>Take notes during a presentation<br>Discuss ideas learned<br>Sequence information<br>Compare/contrast<br>Review evidence from student work samples<br>Review evidence from video teaching examples                                                               |                                                                                                                                          |
| Ways for Teachers to Collaborate During Activities                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Think-Pair-Share:</b> Think about an assigned topic, partner up and discuss, volunteer to share with large group. A think-pair-share can easily be adapted to virtual learning by placing learners in Zoom breakout rooms and letting them record their discussion on a Google doc. | <b>Formulate-Share-Listen-Create:</b> Same as a think-pair-share, but after partners share, they form a new idea that incorporates both. |
| <b>Mix-Freeze-Pair:</b> Learners stand and mix around the room – freeze when told and pair up. You can use music too! Start again, freeze again, pair again.                                                                                                                           | <b>Walk-Talk:</b> Learners take a short walk to discuss a problem or reading.                                                            |
| <b>Say Something:</b> Given a text, pairs decide how far to read. When finished with a section they each say something and continue reading.                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                          |

| Learning Activity Examples: Aligned to KASAB (Skills)                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
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| <b>Teachers can:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Practice<br>Role-play<br>Collect and analyze data                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Ways for Teachers to Collaborate During Activities                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Graffiti:</b> Each group has chart paper with a different topic or prompt that they write about. Groups move around sheets and add ideas.                                                                                                       | <b>Active Observation &amp; Feedback:</b> Develop a role-playing exercise where some learners practice a skill while others observe. Provide observers with a checklist of “look-fors.” Instruct observers to give a signal to the role-players when they notice the look-for (immediate feedback). Discuss at the end. |
| <b>Rotating Roles:</b> Divide learners into trios (teacher, student, observer) and ask them to create real-life scenarios. On a rotating basis, each member should have an opportunity to practice the primary role, secondary role, and observer. | <b>Modeling the Way:</b> Following instruction on a given topic, create specific scenarios and assign them to small groups (2–3 learners). The small group should determine how they will demonstrate the skill to everyone. Each small group takes turns delivering their demonstration with feedback after each demo. |

| Learning Activity Examples: Aligned to KASAB (Attitudes or Behaviors)                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
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| Teachers can:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Create a lesson plan<br>Create a presentation<br>Create an activity<br>Develop a concept map or knowledge web<br>Evaluate their own student work samples<br>Evaluate their own teaching                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Ways for Teachers to Collaborate During Activities                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Pass-the-Brainstorm:</b> Given a piece of paper, learners pass around each generating a new idea or writing an idea that expands on the previous. This type of brainstorm can also be easily adapted to virtual learning via Google docs! | <b>Video Critical Friend:</b> Ask learners to share videos of their teaching in small groups. Using an instructional rubric related to the content or pedagogy, learners look for those factors and discuss as critical friends.                                                                                          |
| <b>Snowball Fight:</b> Each learner or group generates a question on a piece of paper, makes a ball, and throws to another learner or group when told. Teams answer and throw back.                                                          | <b>Jigsaw:</b> Choose learning material that can be broken into parts. Create equal groups of 3–4, with each learner assigned a number (1–3 or 1–4). First group similar numbers together to learn the material. Then create a jigsaw containing EACH number. Learners teach each other the content. Reconvene to review. |

**Virtual Learning:** Google docs, Zoom poll, Padlet, breakout rooms, online whiteboards, Kahoot, TED Talks and YouTube videos, chat.

**Flipped Learning:** What activities can learners complete before you meet or what content can they read ahead of time? Could learners create lesson plans or materials in advance and share via screencasts? Then peers can view and be prepared to comment or give feedback during the PD time.

**Think about how teachers engage their own students in the learning process.** Can you create stations or centers for part of the PD? Will you vary your approach to cooperative learning—some individual activities, but also partners and small groups? Would the teachers benefit from handouts, graphic organizers, models, diagrams, and other visuals? How do you want them to take notes?

*Adapted in part from Villa, Thousand, & Nevin (2015); Silberman (1996); Harris & Hofer (2017)*