

ETEC 512 – 64C
Personal Learning Theory Re-Discovered
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In the 21st Century, it seems our education system is unable to keep up with the speed of the world and how society thinks. Students are coming into classes with a greater ability to learn or multitask at a pace that the current curriculum and educators can't keep up. What I have learned is that the quality and quantity of experiences students are provided in their educational environment play the biggest role in the way they learn.

Bridging curriculum with real life experiences and making connections will provide learners a sense of meaning in understanding what they learn. Bruner's thinking, that discovery learning is not just an instructional technique, but a learning outcome is the basis of my thinking and that learning takes place best when relevance and active engagement is present. This relevance can take the form of solving everyday life problems, which will not only motivate students, but allow creative constructivist activities to occur. The secret to this type of learning to be effective in a student's education is for educators to become guides throughout the process. Educators must guide students through their learning by providing experiences that are enriching, engaging and meaningful.

This is particular true in the new 21st Century learning model involving the use of technology. With the rapid increase in web tools, it is near impossible for educators to keep up. Students, however, are finding it frustrating with the lack of use in today's classrooms compared with what they use at home. It is time for educators and schools to bridge the educational knowledge necessary for understanding with today's reality in an

experiential way that not only motivates, but engage their thinking to exist in the classroom and in the world. Adequate day-to-day experiences with not only technology, but also the real world curriculum will allow students to discover answers to their own questions.

References:

Perry, D. (2002). Unit 5: Cognitive Development Theory. *P540 Learning & Cognition*.

Retrieved from <http://www.indiana.edu/~p540alex/P540Fall02/unit5.html>