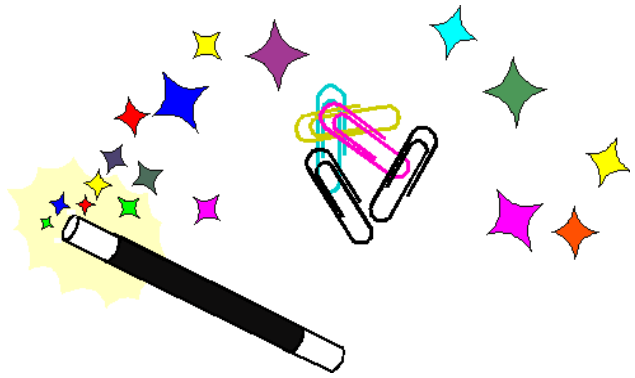


Camp Creates Connections



Top Tricks for Terrific Teaching

Michael Brandwein

☆ 20 Effective Teaching Techniques ☆

1. Feed their eyes. Use props. Hold things up.
2. Break skills down into small, achievable steps.
3. Number the steps: say, “There are three things we are going to do next...”
4. Instead of waiting until the end of a lesson to praise campers, let them know they are doing things that we value at the time that they do them. It’s great to get positive feedback along the way, not just when we get to the end of a task.
5. The more specific the praise, the better. “Good job, you’re doing great!” is not as effective as “You’re waiting until everyone gets to where you are; that’s really patient.”
6. Use repetition. Say key things in different ways.
7. Repetition is very important. It reinforces what is being learned.
8. Demonstrating is better than talking. Try to *show* as much as possible.
9. Show not only what to do but also what *not* to do. Do this with a positive tone. “When you are holding the paper, it won’t look like this, because then it’s facing the wrong way; it will look like this, the way I’m holding it now...”

10. Involve others in your teaching. Get another camper or campers up in front so that they are demonstrating with you. When you show someone up front how to do it, everyone else in the group will pay higher attention.
11. When appropriate, turn your back from time to time so that they see the motions from the way they are looking at it.
12. Give them frequent opportunities to learn from each other. After a step or series of steps, have them turn to a learning partner and check each other to be sure they are doing OK.
13. Motivate and personalize the learning process by telling campers how and where *you* learned what you are teaching them.
14. Try to make what you are teaching special or unique. For example, if true, you can say that most people don't know how to do this specific thing, which makes it more motivating for campers to learn.
15. Help campers deal with imperfection by telling them in advance, if true, that when you first learned how to do this, it didn't come out perfectly the first few times. Tell them what you did to learn it better.
16. When a step does not have to be done perfectly, then tell them.
17. During teaching we are constantly telling people what to do. *Always say please. Always say thank you.* Being respectful builds a better learning relationship.
18. Think about how we *show* that we are excited about teaching something, instead of just telling people it's interesting. Use speed and volume of voice and movement of body to convey this interest.
19. The more questions, the better the teaching. Try to increase the number of questions that you ask. Instead of saying, "Do it this way because...." ask, "What do you think is the best way to do this?" Ask why. Use questions to guide them to know what you know.
20. Be a *partner* with your campers regarding their learning. Get their feedback about whether the methods we're using are helping them learn. Ask them what else we could do to support their learning.

Reprinted from *Training Terrific Staff Volume Two*, Chapter 36 E (2008) Michael Brandwein

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