

Formative Tool 3.2: Learning Habit Interview

What are learning dispositions or habits of learning?

Learners enter our classrooms with dispositional strengths. Learning dispositions, or habits of learning, are the different characteristics and/or behaviors with which children/people approach the learning process (ie: how they think, how they feel, what they are saying and doing). We all activate different dispositions when we are challenged and/or engaged in productive struggle. Dispositions are patterns of thinking that learners activate when they respond to different situations and challenges. Keep in mind that context matters; a learner may be a great problem solver mathematically while they may not feel confident in solving problems around the house. So, you can be certain that learners are coming to the classroom with rich funds of dispositional strength. The dispositions listed below are broken into categories, even though many of the dispositions could be listed in multiple categories.

Learning Dispositions Listed by Category

Academic	Social	Emotional
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● problem solving ● determination ● thinking flexibly ● striving for accuracy ● metacognition ● ● 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● teamwork ● clear communication ● connection ● trust ● contribution ● ● 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● active listening ● empathy ● gratitude ● vulnerability ● humility ● ●

Interview Directions

- Design questions aligned to a learning disposition from your learner profile.
 - See example questions below. Feel free to adjust or adapt.
- Use the questions to gather evidence from either:
 - Option 1: Have students interview a care-giver, family member or mentor.
 - Option 2: Use the questions to interview students.
- Ask the questions and be prepared to take notes. Or, ask permission to record the interview.
- Remember to to use the following prompts during your interviews when appropriate:
 - Tell me more....
 - Can you explain that another way.?
 - Why do you feel that way?
 - It sounds like you were feeling...
 - Let me summarize what you said.
 - Did I understand correctly?
 - Did I leave anything out?

Option 1: Interview someone who you admire, look up to or have a quality connection with. Adapt, create or adopt the example dispositional interview questions below. The purpose of the interview is to find out how the person you are interviewing has experienced the habits of learning in their own life. Take quality notes so you can discuss your interview(s) in class.

Option 2: Interview students 1-1 or in small groups. You can use the questions below to guide your interview or create your own dispositional questions. The purpose of the interview is to find out when your students have demonstrated the disposition in their own lives. Then, as a teacher you will be able to help students make dispositional connections between home and school.

Interview Examples

Determination

1. Think about a time when you were **determined**.
 - a. What were you thinking, feeling, saying and/or doing?
2. Why were you so **determined**?
3. Did anything get in the way of your goal? What did you do?
4. Did anyone help you?
5. When are you most **determined**? Why?

Teamwork

1. What does **teamwork** mean to you?
2. Were you ever part of a great **team**? What was it like?
3. How did you get through problems together?
4. What did you do when you disagreed with each other?
5. Why did you get along so well?

Active Listening

1. What does it mean to **actively listen**?
2. How do you know someone is really **listening** to you?
3. Is there someone in your life that **really listens** to you?
 - a. What makes you feel that way?
 - b. What do they do?
 - c. What do they say to you?
4. How do you show/let people know you are listening?

Gratitude

1. What does **gratitude** mean to you?
2. What are you **grateful** for? Why?
3. How do you show someone that you are **grateful**?
4. When someone expresses gratitude to you, how do you feel?

Feel free to adapt this protocol to meet your needs.