

## **What is Constructivism Learning Theory?**

The theory of constructivism focuses on the idea that students acquire knowledge through active exploration and inquiry of their environment utilizing their cognitive processing skills.. The acquisition of knowledge does not come through passive learning (Schcolnik et al., 2009).

## **History of the Theory of Constructivism**

The principle of constructivism is based on the ideology of students being active participants in their learning process. As they attain new knowledge, they are relying on their experiences, new and old, to make connections with the new information they learn. This theory is rooted in the areas of philosophy, psychology, sociology, and education (Bada, 2015), through the work of theorists such as Dewey, Bruner , Vygotsky and Piaget. The study of their work highlights the importance of learning through authentic experiences that promotes students' self-regulation.

## **Implementation**

Before implementing a learning environment that is centered around constructivism, there are four principles that need to be embedded in your daily routines:

- 1) Knowledge will be shared between teachers and students.
  - 2) Teachers and students will share authority.
  - 3) The teacher"s role is one of a facilitator or guide.
  - 4) Learning groups will consist of small numbers of heterogeneous students.
- (Bada, 2015)

These principles are to be used as guiding points to structure your classroom. Students are not just the recipients of new knowledge but they also take on a shared role of presenting information. There is a shared responsibility amongst teachers and students of power and accountability in the classroom. In the construct, the teacher promotes students to be in control of their learning and

provides the space for students to question new knowledge and reshape their prior knowledge. In this type of environment, students of varying skill sets work collaboratively as they construct new meaning. .

### **Classroom Practices**

Constructivism is centered around student inquiry of their environment. Students take on a leadership role as it pertains to the material utilized to understand and reflect upon the information taught. Students are active participants in their learning and are continually questioning new concepts as well as reshaping the previous perspectives. Diversified, collaborative groups are an integral part in the learning process. The learning process is centered around students' application of knowledge to solve real world problems.

### **Challenges**

Planning and executing the type of structure that is required for a constructivist classroom may be difficult to map out because of time constraints. Teacher and schedule flexibility may hinder the execution of lessons centered around constructivist learning. This type of classroom design may not be beneficial for all students.