

# Introduction

This series of mini-books is an attempt to support educators in their struggles when teaching young learners in the digital era.

## Why?

Generation theories might be considered as artificial, the typical behavior of our younger learners differs from that of previous generations.

They are being brought up in a society where marketers are using the most unfair tricks to spread their (digital or non-digital) goods. Our learners' precious devices are flooded with habit forming apps [explain] and games, gamification [explain] is all the rage, and everything strives to be user-friendly [explain]. Easy and delightful. Everything. Except education.

Demanding a certain kind of effort from a generation that has been conditioned to chase feel-good hormones is like wanting a larger whale to flutter in the air like a spring butterfly.

Face it, we are in the midst of a dopamine economy [explain]. There is a lot of wanting and liking without much thinking.

## Flow

Digital products count on the state of flow [explain], education still counts on self-discipline. We cannot be sure it does the trick when it comes to pulling the right amount of effort from our learners.

What we may want is to help them get that autotelic experience which is both joyful and enables them to make an effort and concentrate. Traditional materials often fail to even catch children's attention in this world of information overload and attention deficit.

Successful completion.... , blah blah blah

Recognition, pride, praise...., blah blah blah

feel good drugs: norepinephrine, dopamine, anandamide, serotonin, endorphins

## How?

Intrinsic reward:

Successful completion of a task sometimes they are capable, but they are not capable of making the effort.

Dopamine is needed for them to mobilize their resources

Freedom

Wanting vs liking

# How to use this book

Be flexible.

Feel free to adjust the level of the reading texts, the number of questions (keep the tasks bite-size), the timing of tasks to your group. Omit phases, include your own ideas. Only you know the level, the ability, the personalities and the temperament, the background and the interests of your learners.