

TEACHING TODAY'S LEARNERS #1



HELPING LEARNERS GET “UNSTUCK”

From time to time, all learners get “stuck” and can’t seem to move forward. When this happens, it typically means they are focused on the big picture looming out in the distance and can’t figure out how to put all the steps together.

TWO IMPORTANT WORDS:

RIGHT NOW are two important words in helping a learner get “unstuck”. When a learner shuts down, it is typically because (s)he is looking too far ahead. Bringing him/her back to the first step—the right now—helps narrow the focus.

THREE IMPORTANT QUESTIONS:

When a learner is stuck, try asking these three questions:

- What is going well for you right now?
- What do you need to be successful right now?
- What is your plan (or next step) right now?

When a learner focuses on their next step, (s)he begins seeing the problem or challenge as a journey rather than a battle. When they are prompted with a positive question, the focus becomes the learner’s success rather than being “stuck”.

WHEN ISSUES ARISE:

Sometimes a learner remains stuck. When this happens, we must help learners develop the skill of long-term planning—breaking tasks into smaller parts, using a calendar to set goals and due dates, and celebrating small successes.