

Making Progress or Losing Control?

LSRN SW Regional Conference

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FE teachers - educational experts or
skills factory foremen?

- Is the government emphasis on skills putting traditional teaching in jeopardy?
- Is there room for a longer term view of learning?
- What might be trampled in the crush?

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What do we know about learning?

Not merely a cognitive process but an adaptation of ways of thinking, and seeing, not only the world but oneself :

“Learning and a sense of identity are inseparable. They are aspects of the same phenomenon”

Lave and Wenger (1991)

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What do we know about learning?

Accelerated by social engagements and participation:

“Learning involves the whole person – it implies becoming a full participant, a member, a kind of person.”

Lave and Wenger (1991)

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What do we know about learning?

A continuum throughout our lives:

“Learners’ utterances address and respond not only to their current teachers’ questions and assignments but also to their former teachers’ expectations and demands, to prior utterances heard and read.”

Kramsch (2000)

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Implications for teachers

“They (students) are first and foremost individuals whose formation as thinking and learning beings depends crucially on the concrete circumstances of their specific histories”

Pavlenko and Lantolf (2000)

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Implications for teachers

“No teacher can afford to be anything but a researcher”

Holliday (1994)

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Implications for teachers

Learning about or learning to be?

“ (schooling) today would seem to be paying too much attention to what we study and not enough to what we become ”

Lemke (2002)

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Implications for teachers

“ Teaching is a moral act ”

Gee (1990)

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