



PYRAMID DISCUSSION: FACILITATOR GUIDE

Activity overview: The purpose of this activity is for participants to review three strategies that make learning meaningful for children:

1. Link new learning to previous experiences.
2. Link concepts to children's lives.
3. Provide hands-on learning opportunities.

Directions: Ask participants to count off by threes and remember their numbers. Refer to the three strategies above, and assign the first strategy to the "ones," the second strategy to the "twos," etc.

Ask each participant to think about their assigned strategy and write down some thoughts and experiences related to it. Then, ask participants to share these with another person who has the same strategy. Each pair discusses individual thoughts, decides upon their favorites, and writes them in the middle section below. Next, invite the partners with the same strategy to form a group. Each group shares ideas, decides upon a new set of favorite ideas, and records them in the last section below.

Conclude the activity by having one person from each group describe their favorite ideas to the larger group.

Example:

Making Learning Meaningful	
Strategy: <i>Link concepts to children's lives</i>	
My thoughts and experiences: <i>When I did a lesson on recognizing a variety of jobs, I asked children to tell me about the jobs members of their families had. When we talked about what it means to be a friend, I asked who they played with at home. I did this unit on storytelling and asked children to tell me stories.</i>	
Ideas with partner:	
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
Group ideas:	
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	



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Activity overview: The purpose of this activity is to review three strategies that make learning meaningful for children:

1. Link new learning to previous experiences.
2. Link concepts to children's lives.
3. Provide hands-on learning opportunities.

Directions: Think about the teaching strategy you were assigned, and reflect on your thoughts and experiences with it. Write these in the first section below.

Next, find a partner who has your same strategy. Share your reflections and select five favorite ideas. Record them in the middle section below.

Form a small group with other participants who were assigned the same strategy. Share your favorite ideas and choose five that you all agree on. Write these in the last section below. Be ready to share with the larger group.

Making Learning Meaningful	
Strategy:	
My thoughts and experiences:	
Ideas with partner:	
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
Group ideas:	
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	