

# Learning to Learn – what is it?

Basically, we class Learning to Learn as the delivery of any method that helps your pupils learn and use any knowledge or skill **more** quickly, thoroughly, easily, enjoyably, deeply and/or permanently. This would ideally help learning across the curriculum but it can be in a particular subject.

## What Learning to Learn Methods Are There?

One of our guiding principles is that teachers know best what will help their particular pupils learn more effectively. Bearing that in mind, here are just some ideas that you might want to consider – the major award would most likely help implement a powerful combination of these...

Brief Notes	Further Information
<b>Accelerated Learning</b>	
<i>This is a bit of an umbrella term that incorporates many of the effective learning techniques which we have listed below e.g. Using VAK input, the accelerated learning cycle and multiple intelligences. How the brain learns. Building positive self-esteem. Assessing and retaining information e.g. by speed reading and memory mapping</i>	Book: Colin Rose – Master it Faster Book: Alistair Smith: Accelerated Learning in the Classroom  <a href="http://www.alistairsmithlearning.com/learning">http://www.alistairsmithlearning.com/learning</a>
Learning and practising accelerated learning techniques through writing fiction	<a href="https://www.amazon.co.uk/Alps-StoryMaker-Resource-Accelerated-Learning/dp/1855390760">https://www.amazon.co.uk/Alps-StoryMaker-Resource-Accelerated-Learning/dp/1855390760</a>
<b>Assessment for Learning</b>	
How to use assessment to best facilitate effective learning.	<a href="https://cambridge-community.org.uk/professional-development/gswafl/index.html">https://cambridge-community.org.uk/professional-development/gswafl/index.html</a>
<b>Collaborative Learning</b>	
Using learning in pairs or larger groups to accelerate and deepen learning as well as increase motivation and enjoyment.	<a href="https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/evidence-summaries/teaching-learning-toolkit/collaborative-learning/">https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/evidence-summaries/teaching-learning-toolkit/collaborative-learning/</a>
<b>Creative Thinking/Generating and Assessing Ideas/Lateral Thinking</b>	
Fun, effective ways to help generate new ideas and problem solve. This might include structured methods such as de Bono's Six Hats Thinking to simple approaches such as reverse thinking.	<a href="http://www.debonogroup.com/six_thinking_hats.php">http://www.debonogroup.com/six_thinking_hats.php</a> <a href="https://www.cleverism.com/18-best-idea-generation-techniques/">https://www.cleverism.com/18-best-idea-generation-techniques/</a>
<b>Critical Thinking</b>	
<i>“actively and skilfully conceptualizing, applying, analysing, synthesizing, and/or evaluating information”</i> Identifying and evaluating arguments over opinions and assessing evidence.	<a href="https://www.teachthought.com/critical-thinking/25-resources-for-teaching-critical-thinking/">https://www.teachthought.com/critical-thinking/25-resources-for-teaching-critical-thinking/</a>
<b>Debating/Public Speaking</b>	
Learning to organise information, prepare an interesting and informative talk, getting to the point, impromptu speaking, control voice/posture and give constructive evaluation etc.	<a href="https://www.toastmasters.org/membership/community-based-programs">https://www.toastmasters.org/membership/community-based-programs</a>
<b>Educational Coaching/Self-Belief /Confidence/Growth Mind-Set/Motivation</b>	
Developing and applying the factors that motivate others and bolster confidence. Promoting and applying the idea that intelligence is something that is built up with effort and not a set at a fixed level.	<a href="https://training.coachinginschools.com/course-details/">https://training.coachinginschools.com/course-details/</a> <a href="https://www.theguardian.com/teacher-network/2018/jan/04/research-every-teacher-should-know-growth-mindset">https://www.theguardian.com/teacher-network/2018/jan/04/research-every-teacher-should-know-growth-mindset</a>
<b>I.T.</b>	
Learning how to use interactive software to improve learning e.g. take effective notes and generate ideas/connections using online mindmaps, produce online revision cards, test yourself with feedback etc.	<a href="https://tutorful.co.uk/blog/the-82-hottest-edtech-tools-of-2017-according-to-education-experts">https://tutorful.co.uk/blog/the-82-hottest-edtech-tools-of-2017-according-to-education-experts</a>

Memory Techniques	
Understanding how memory works and improving memorisation and recall using techniques such as the Link, Major and Roman Room Systems.	<a href="https://www.academictips.org/memory/index.html">https://www.academictips.org/memory/index.html</a> Book: Tony Buzan: The Memory Book.
Notetaking	
Effectively recording and organising information to aid learning and recall. Includes such techniques as mindmapping, revision cards, sketch-notes and Cornell notes. Also includes active listening skills.	Tony Buzan: The Mind Map Book <a href="http://www.mindmapping.com">http://www.mindmapping.com</a> <a href="https://www.teachthought.com/literacy/how-to-take-cornell-notes/">https://www.teachthought.com/literacy/how-to-take-cornell-notes/</a> <a href="https://www.oxfordlearning.com/improve-active-listening-skills/">https://www.oxfordlearning.com/improve-active-listening-skills/</a>
Modes of Learning	
Using e.g. 8 different intelligences (Visual, linguistic, kinaesthetic, interpersonal, intrapersonal, logical, musical, naturalistic) to increase the speed and depth of learning. Also, Brain-targeted Learning which takes into account the physical and emotional environment, mastery, application and evaluation of learning.	<a href="http://www.thinkingschoolsinternational.com/the-tsi-approach-and-training/thinking-skills/">http://www.thinkingschoolsinternational.com/the-tsi-approach-and-training/thinking-skills/</a> <a href="http://www.braintargetedteaching.org/index.cfm">http://www.braintargetedteaching.org/index.cfm</a>
Questioning Techniques	
Using the best questioning techniques to enhance and extend learning (e.g. open/closed, funnel, probing etc). Using Bloom's Taxonomy to extend your questioning.	<a href="https://www.mindtools.com/pages/article/newTMC_88.htm">https://www.mindtools.com/pages/article/newTMC_88.htm</a> <a href="http://teachertools.londongt.org/?page=questioningTechniques">http://teachertools.londongt.org/?page=questioningTechniques</a>
Speed reading	
Techniques to help absorb written information more quickly – balancing speed with comprehension. Using software tools to help.	<a href="https://www.speedreadinglounge.com/how-to-speed-read">https://www.speedreadinglounge.com/how-to-speed-read</a> <a href="https://www.spreader.com/">https://www.spreader.com/</a>
Study/Revision/Exam Techniques	
Making studying more effective by using cognitive science recommendations such as elaboration, dual coding and interleaving.	<a href="http://www.learningscientists.org/downloadable-materials/">http://www.learningscientists.org/downloadable-materials/</a>
Thinking Skills	
<i>Another umbrella term that covers a whole host of effective learning methods including:</i> Broadening thinking, ideas generation, focussing attention, organising thinking, assessing evidence, debating, creativity methods and using a thinking framework.	Book - Edward de Bono: Teach your child how to think. <a href="http://www.cortthinking.com/cort/1">http://www.cortthinking.com/cort/1</a>

**This is not an exhaustive list by any means and there is plenty of crossover between the skills. We are very happy to consider any other Effective Learning ideas for an award.**

## What sort of things can I apply for?

It is entirely up to you how to best implement your selected method(s). Here are some examples:

- learning and teaching materials (e.g. CoRT Thinking: 60 ready-made lesson plans and resources to teach different aspects of thinking. <http://www.cortthinking.com/>)
- out-of-school courses (pupils or teacher), out-of-hours learning, clubs
- outside speakers/presentations, visiting specialist tutors/teachers
- learning days/weeks
- Teacher/school training and accreditation e.g.
  - Thinking Matters [www.thinkingmatters.com](http://www.thinkingmatters.com) formerly: Thinking Schools International <http://www.thinkingschoolsinternational.com/step-1-introductory-professional-development-workshop/>
  - Alistair Smith – one of the key players in accelerated learning. <http://www.alistairsmithlearning.com/learning>
  - Edward De Bono Thinking Courses <https://www.edwarddebono.com/courses> or <http://www.edwarddebonofoundation.com/Our-Solutions/How-We-Help-You-Be-Creative.html>

**N.B. EdufundUK does not specifically endorse or favour any of the links on this help sheet. They are for exemplification only and teachers are expected to evaluate their usefulness for themselves.**