

Engaging Pacific Learners

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Enhancing Pasifika Learning

1. Create a comfortable & safe environment
2. Acknowledge the context of Pasifika learners
3. Use appropriate teaching methods

Create a comfortable & safe environment

- Pacific symbols and artefacts
- Chart and posters
- Greetings
- Appropriate dress
- Music
- Introductions and acknowledgements

Introductions

- Introduce yourselves to each other and share a bit about yourselves.
- *For example: where you live; where your family is from; who is in your family; where you went to school; what your name means and how you got your name*
- *What commonalities does your group have?*

Good Practice

- Importance of relationships with students
- Importance of knowing your learners
- Teaching necessitates the inclusion of the whole embodied being of the person

Knight, P. (2002). *Being a teacher in higher education*. Buckingham: Society for Research into Higher Education & Open University Press

Acknowledge the context of Pasifika learners

- People over task are valued
- Task over time is valued
- Spiritual dimension
- Pacific perspectives on volunteerism
- Cultural obligations
- Family as extension of self
- Level of commitment enormous



Appropriate Teaching Tools

- Metaphors
- Stories
- Pacific case studies
- Interactive activities
- Simulation games
- Define concepts using visuals
- Instructions written as well as spoken
- Contextualisation and customisation of content

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“Adding wings to caterpillars does not create butterflies--it creates awkward and dysfunctional caterpillars. Butterflies are created through transformation...”

Stephanie Marshal