

Future-It-Out... & Circle Back



We are working to change the common narrative of...

"My learner is rigid" to "My learner needs more time to process and integrate new information. It will be better for both of us, for lots of different reasons, if I respect and embrace this aspect of their learning style, by building in the time that they need."



Sometimes, our learners truly need a little bit longer to process and integrate a new "information nugget" into their greater understanding and experiences of the world.

Think: hours, days, weeks, or even more.



The skill we are trying to help develop, or foster, will take off in a more positive way, if we simply respect their unique processing style, & embrace it (rather than fight it).



A connecting and meaningful way to describe this process is:

Creating a future narrative together over the course of time

Or as a strategy, we can call it:

"Futuring-It-Out"



To "future out" an idea means we enter the engagement with the future, not the present in our focus.

We have two goals when we "Future it Out":

1. Introduce the new idea ("information nugget") in a very general way, and at a time that our learner is ready to hear it.



2. And then, make a plan with your learner to revisit, or come back to, that idea together, at a set point in the future (i.e., after they have had time to fully process the information).



Important Note: "Revisiting" in the near future may consist of actually doing that thing (taking action), or it may simply consist of further exploring the new idea together.



When we get in the practice of planning ahead to circle back in this way, and then follow through on our "revisiting", we create a shared narrative, that steadily develops at a pace that is manageable to our learner.



Some example "Future it Out" statements:

- I have an idea that I would love to share with you...
 - It doesn't have to be for today, just sometime in the future.
- I'd love to share more information with you...
 - I could share it now, or next time I see you.
- Maybe someday we can explore this new idea together.

Some example "Circling Back" statements:

- I remember last time we made a plan to come back to this idea.
 - I'm wondering if you feel ready to talk more about this today?
- I was hoping we could talk more about X because I have a little more information to share with you.
 - I think it will help you feel more comfortable...

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