

RaPAL/NIACE/UCU Conference Workshop Summary

Putting the fun into functional: incorporating problem solving into our teaching of English and maths

Workshop presenters: Gail Lydon

Rapporteur: Angela Nartey

This was an interactive session delivered in workshop format.

The group explored the question 'what makes learning engaging?' Respondents felt that such learning should be goal oriented, contextualised, interesting, challenging and interactive. The group also discussed how complexity, familiarity, technical demand and possibility for independent learning each affected a learner's ability to engage.

Groups then completed a number of activities which explored:

- How can we make English and maths interesting
- What is a problem?
- What do our learners find challenging?

Gail demonstrated how a range of resources including those which are out of date or cheap (we devised lesson plans using a 10 pence packet of seeds!) can be adapted to create a problem-centred learning experience. Gail shared a number of her educational resources and attendees worked in groups to explore the resources in tutor/learner/observer scenarios. Feedback sessions were held for each activity. Gail's website has a number of fantastic resources which are available at www.great-learning.co.uk