

Definition

Feedback refers to helpful information or criticism that is given to someone to say what can be done to improve a performance, product, etc. Typically, feedback is received through two methods:

1. Information we perceive through our natural senses. At times, this can serve as a personal way to self-assess our understanding of a topic, information, etc. This method of receiving feedback is linked with first language acquisition through parental input.
2. Information we are given by others, such as our teachers, peers, etc. This method is a bit more critical because the delivery must be made in a constructive manner.

Why give feedback?

- * Gives students a chance to identify areas in which they can improve.
- * Neutral way of improving and correcting performance.
- * Boost confidence in the areas where there is good and bad performance.
- * Intrinsically and extrinsically motivates student's behavior.

Ask-Tell-Ask Technique

- * Ask students for self-assessment, this will launch the student into a phase of reflection.
- * Tell students the behavior / performance you observe and how it is different from what is expected.
- * Ask students how they think they can improve and what actions need to be taken.

Sandwich Technique

- * Praise the students for their strengths and areas of good performance. Things that are done well deserve to be noticed because it can motivate.
- * State that the students behavior / performance you observe and how it differs from what is expected.
- * Praise their abilities to adapt and modify. Use real-life examples of instances where they have adapted and modified successfully in the past.

Bridge Technique

- Connecting concepts from past, present and future:
- * Past positive behavior / performance.
 - * Present observed behavior / performance.
 - * Future behavior / performance expected.

Recommendations

Contrary to the popular belief that giving feedback is a negative and corrective act, as teachers, it is essential that we make the feedback process a positive and neutral learning experience. It doesn't matter if the feedback is verbal or written, the purpose of giving feedback is to improve a student's performance and not hinder it. The ultimate goal for every teacher giving feedback should be to provide the students with a "I can do this" attitude.

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