

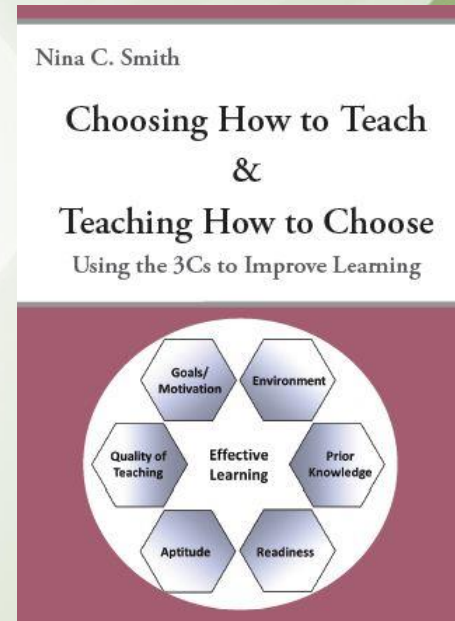
Nina's Notes:

# UNLEASH THE FORCE !

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The book picture is  
a link to Amazon

Unleashing the Force of Learning



# Inborn Curiosity

- There is an enormous **power** and **capacity** for learning inside every student.
  - Every child born to this world is **equipped with tools for learning** and with a need to make sense of the surrounding world.



# Meaningful Learning

We use the information we gather from our everyday lives to **construct our understanding** about ourselves, the life, universe and everything.

- Then where do the **disengaged** students come from?!
- Why isn't learning **meaningful** for them?

# Unleash the Force !

Make a clear distinction between teaching and learning (as we should), and the real idea becomes very clear:

- **All learning is individual**
- Best results always come from **personalized** teaching (or **differentiated** instruction, which ever term you like)

# The Force

Each and every one of our students

- your students and mine -

are **equipped with the  
same force to make sense**

they share the same **inborn curiosity**

for **learning and experiencing**

– because that is what makes us humans.



# Here is the challenge!

## **How to tap into that source?**

How to make the force of making sense work for us instead of against us?

How to follow the natural, inborn flow of learning?

We already have much information about the cognitive processes in learning – we must utilize it better!



# Albert Einstein quote

*Everybody is a genius.  
But if you judge a fish by its  
ability to climb a tree,  
it will live its whole life  
believing that it is stupid.*





# Set the components apart

- Testing environment is significantly different from learning environment
  - Testing requires controlled, rigorous environment
  - Learning requires free and nurturing environment

It **IS** possible to find a balance and get excellent educational outcomes with learning centered approach!






# Transparency

- ALL "true" or "real" learning happens in your students' brains.
- This creates the necessity of understanding the way learning happens.
- Sharing that knowledge with students, helps them become involved in their own learning process.

# Taught does not mean it's learned

- Holding teachers accountable for teaching is much less effective than helping students become accountable for learning
- Making clear distinction between teaching and learning is essential!



# We need a change in the paradigm of education

We must  
change the focus *from*  
**teaching** *into* **learning**.

This shift in thinking is one part  
explaining the success of the  
“Finland Phenomenon”



# Curriculum and instruction

- Thinking about the curriculum and instruction while planning lessons, and aligning strategies with outcomes is an everyday practice.
  - Too often this is done with the teaching perspective – instead focusing on learning.
  - Changing the focus improves learning – and the outcomes.

# Play & learning

Depending on the **feedback** students receive about their (mental or practical) explorations they will **either continue** to the direction they are headed, **or venture into something else**.

- Play is a **safe** way to test your abilities
- Learning environment should provide the same **safety for exploration** – making mistakes must be acceptable and preferably cherished!

# Purposeful Play

Through **purposeful play** children experience the thrill of **genuine achievement** and this makes learning a **memorable adventure** - and especially one they will wish to **repeat**.

- Play is the visual part of thinking for young children.
- Play is an important part of problem solving and planning & organizing your actions.
- Play improves Executive Functions

# Your choice

We sometimes make choices without realizing doing it.

- Even deciding **not to choose** (or postponing decision) is a choice.
- Your choice, as a teacher, is to simply focus of learning instead of teaching and choose to facilitate your students learning – and let them practice choosing in the classroom.



# The Key - Empowerment

**Best teacher is the one  
who makes herself  
unnecessary by  
empowering students  
become autonomous  
learners.**

# Ingredients of Effective Learning

1. Safe learning **environment** - both emotional and physical.
2. Building on students' **prior knowledge**.
3. **Readiness** - using meta-cognition to help students to know how they learn.

# Ingredients of Effective Learning

4. **Aptitude** for learning. Everyone can learn!

5. Students' own **goals** and their **motivation**.

6. **Instructional quality** – just 1/6 of effective learning, but too often highlighted as the only measurement of education excellence.

# The Learning Star



When all the pieces come together the effective learning happens – quite automatically.



# Become a Learning Facilitator

Change the educational focus from teaching to learning.

- There are several other components in learning that just teaching.
- Teachers' job is to ensure all these components are present, and all needs met.



# Meaningful Learning

Force to learn is an inborn phenomenon, and being able to go with that flow makes teaching and learning easy and enjoyable.

- Providing timely and reliable feedback convinces students that they are on the right track and therefore they are driven to learn more.
- This is also the basic recipe for strengthening intrinsic motivation and academic performance.

# Balance is important

**Provide well-structured  
freedom within  
reasonable limits and  
watch your students  
learn more than ever!**



# More information about Meaningful Learning:

**Get the book:**

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Nina C. Smith

Choosing How to Teach  
&  
Teaching How to Choose  
Using the 3Cs to Improve Learning

**Nina's Notes**  
for Effective Teaching and Meaningful Learning

Welcome to *Nina's Notes*



Teaching is such a wonderful profession!

We are trusted with great responsibility. Teachers all want to positively affect the lives of the students they teach.

However, being a teacher is not always easy. Students' academic performance depends on many factors in addition to what the teacher does. I help teachers to improve learning in their classrooms and provide 3C tools to make learning and teaching more effective and enjoyable.

Click here to email Nina and learn more. And click here to find Nina's Notes about teaching to help you enjoy!



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