Mind Magic
by
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Based on the works of Jean Piaget

Developing the three components of intelligence that matter most:
- adaptability,
- creativity,
- information management.

Owing Your Information

Own it - don't just borrow it.
Make it simple - not more complicated.
Know yourself.
Use natural learning.

Natural Learning

You do not have to wait a long time before your learning pays off.
Acquiring information is integrated with the rest of your life experiences.
Have a sense of owning your learning from the very beginning.

Naturally Acquiring Information

Mastering facts is difficult - assimilating facts is easy.

Familiarity (not intrinsic complexity) is what makes information easy to learn.

Naturally Acquiring Information

Our minds work by interpreting reality instead of copying it.

Learning is more like making a repair, than filling an empty pitcher.
Naturally Acquiring Information

What appears to be a entire new body of information is often something familiar but seen from a different perspective.

All facts are really interpretations in disguise.

Understanding new information is itself a kind of creative thinking.

Active interpretation also implies active self-criticism.

How you perceive yourself (mind) affects how well it serves you.

Simplifying Complex Knowledge Domains

Begin with something concrete.

Understand theory in relation to practice.

Learn complex ideas by understanding their historical context.

Take complex ideas down from their pedestal.

Avoiding Information Overload

Think before you read (relativity).

Find a friend (familiarity).

Read in depth, but only selectively.

Actively challenge yourself.

Problem Solving Principles

Do make a lot of guesses.

Do be prepared to question the legitimacy of the problem.

Do consider the problem’s “psychology”.

Do bite off more than you can chew.

Do respect your unconscious.

Don’t ignore your peers.

Don’t be intimidated by setbacks.

Don’t wait for a Eureka experience.

Don’t be surprised by interactions and side-effects.

Don’t be afraid to reinvent the wheel.
Facing a New Challenge (Problem)

Questions to ask yourself -

Am I sure I know what the real problem is?

Are standard methods enough, or should I look for a novel/creative approach?

How many resources (especially time) do I need to budget/allocate?

Do I need a structured plan?