



SL RESEARCH RESULTS

1. Enhancing Autonomy and Choice for Young Learners

1. Offer Freedom and Variety in Activities

- Empower youngsters to co-create their learning paths.
- Example: Allow youngsters to choose between developing a podcast on climate change, creating an art installation, or writing a blog series as a sustainability project.
- Why: When learners choose projects that align with their interests, they take ownership and deepen their commitment.

2. Encourage Ownership and Responsibility

- Guide youngsters to set personal learning goals and track progress.
- Example: Students maintain a “learning journal” to reflect on weekly goals, successes, and challenges.
- Why: Builds intrinsic motivation and develops planning and self-assessment skills.

3. Create a Safe and Supportive Environment

- Ensure learning environments are inclusive, respectful, and responsive.
- Example: Introduce circle-time or peer mediation groups where all voices are heard.
- Why: Emotional safety encourages risk-taking in learning and deeper engagement.

4. Tailor Learning Paths to Individual Needs

- Use competency-based learning and digital tools to adapt content.
- Example: A student struggling in math can use a gamified app to reinforce concepts while others advance to project work.
- Why: Flexibility ensures no learner is left behind and supports various learning speeds.

5. Integrate Fun and Meaningful Learning

- Use games, storytelling, and real-world scenarios.
- Example: Role-play a UN climate summit or create a board game about waste management.
- Why: Fun and relevance enhance memory retention and engagement.





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II. Effective Planning and Design of Learning Environments

1. Clear Structure with Flexibility

- Equip educators with adaptable tools and frameworks.
- Example: A flexible template for project-based learning that can be applied to themes from biodiversity to urban development.
- Why: Structure ensures clarity; flexibility enables customization.

2. Celebrate Success to Enhance Motivation

- Use ongoing milestones, peer recognition, and rewards.
- Example: Award digital badges for completing sustainability challenges like a zero-waste week.
- Why: Recognition builds confidence and celebrates progress, not just results.

3. Adaptability to Individual and Group Needs

- Differentiate instruction based on group dynamics and individual preferences.
- Example: A class exploring clean energy might be split into teams focusing on wind, solar, or hydropower, each using different media.
- Why: Group-specific strategies foster engagement and collaborative learning.

4. Empower Educators with Flexibility and Tools

- Provide training, autonomy, and peer networks.
- Example: Establish educator learning communities focused on sustainability education.
- Why: Empowered educators are more creative and responsive.

5. Integrate Reflection and Validation Systems

- Include self-reflection and feedback as integral learning components.
- Example: Use digital portfolios where youngsters post project reflections, peer feedback, and learning artifacts.
- Why: Encourages lifelong learning habits and personal growth.





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III. Meeting Learning Requirements of the 21st Century

1. Incorporate Experiential and Active Learning

- Combine theoretical learning with practical projects.
- Example: Start a school composting program tied to biology curriculum.
- Why: Hands-on experiences help youngsters retain knowledge and apply skills.

2. Promote Safe and Inclusive Learning Environments

- Use accessible content and support services.
- Example: Multimedia content for students with dyslexia or guided sessions with learning coaches.
- Why: Inclusivity improves outcomes for all learners.

3. Integrate Theory with Practice

- Link curriculum topics with real-life applications.
- Example: A geometry unit could involve measuring and redesigning classroom spaces for energy efficiency.
- Why: Practical application builds relevance and deeper understanding.

4. Use Learning Coaches for Personalization

- Assign adult mentors to students.
- Example: A coach meets bi-weekly with youngsters to adjust learning paths and set personal challenges.
- Why: Personalized support enhances engagement and addresses barriers.

5. Encourage Peer-to-Peer and Collaborative Learning

- Promote teamwork and knowledge sharing.
- Example: Mixed-age student teams work on a school-wide sustainability fair.
- Why: Collaboration fosters communication and problem-solving skills.





SL PRINCIPLES & METHODOLOGIES



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IV. Strengthening Management Support

1. Prioritize Sustainability Institutionally

- Make sustainability a central value in policies and practice.
- Example: Develop a school sustainability plan with student input.
- Why: Whole-system alignment ensures lasting impact.

2. Invest in Educator Development

- Provide training and recognition.
- Example: Teachers attend a summer course on eco-pedagogy and get certified as 'Green Ambassadors.'
- Why: Trained educators can implement and advocate for sustainability.

3. Allocate Time and Resources for Change

- Protect time for innovation and experimentation.
- Example: One day per term is dedicated to staff-led innovation labs.
- Why: Time and support reduce burnout and encourage new approaches.

4. Support Collaboration Across Stakeholders

- Build partnerships with local organizations.
- Example: Partner with a local recycling company for workshops and internships.
- Why: External collaboration enriches learning and community engagement.

5. Ensure Management Alignment and Support

- Leadership visibly supports innovative practices.
- Example: School leaders join student-led sustainability projects or co-teach classes.
- Why: Role modeling builds credibility and trust.





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V. Deepening the Focus on Sustainability

1. Integrate Sustainability in Every Organizational Domain

- Embed it across curriculum, operations, and staff roles.
- Example: Incorporate eco-audits into math and science lessons.
- Why: Whole-institution approach reinforces learning.

2. Leverage Local Challenges and Events

- Use community issues to frame learning.
- Example: Youngsters analyze air quality data in their neighborhood.
- Why: Local relevance enhances motivation and civic awareness.

3. Incorporate Game Elements in Learning

- Gamify learning processes.
- Example: A sustainability treasure hunt that teaches recycling habits.
- Why: Games increase engagement and retention.

4. Promote Systems Thinking and Interconnectivity

- Help learners connect the dots.
- Example: Youngsters explore the water-energy-food nexus in interdisciplinary projects.
- Why: Systems thinking builds future-ready, analytical minds.

5. Provide Educators with Support and Tools

- Equip educators with kits, lesson plans, and contacts.
- Example: A shared online repository of eco-project templates.
- Why: Resources accelerate implementation and reduce effort duplication.

6. Entrepreneurship and Innovation in Learning

- Encourage green entrepreneurship.
- Example: Youngsters design social enterprises like a bike repair shop or a school garden produce stand.
- Why: Builds creativity, responsibility, and real-world skills.





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VI. Validation of Non-Formal Learning

1. Validation Systems for Non-Formal Learning

- Use digital portfolios and open badges to document competencies.
- Example: A student earns a badge for organizing a community cleanup project, tied to leadership and environmental action.

2. Green Skills Framework

- Define core competencies such as climate literacy, circular economy, and ethical decision-making.
- Example: Integrate composting projects with lessons on the circular economy.

3. Bridging Non-Formal and Formal Learning

- Use shared competence descriptors across settings.
- Example: A scouting eco-camp experience counts toward school credits under environmental science.

4. Assessment of Skills

- Diversify formats—use interviews, videos, projects.
- Example: A short video diary documenting a youngster's learning journey in a community garden.

5. Non-Formal Learning Methods

- Apply experiential, gamified, and peer-led methods.
- Example: Intergenerational learning circles where youth teach digital skills and elders share sustainable living tips.

