

Teaching Resources for Subject Specialist Pedagogy



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Inspiring tomorrow's professionals

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Ofsted survey of ITT in FE (2003)

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Office for Standards
in Education

The initial training of further education teachers



A survey

HMI 1762

The trouble with subject-specialism...

“While the tuition that trainees receive on the taught elements of their courses is generally good, few opportunities are provided for trainees to learn how to teach their specialist subjects”

(Ofsted 2003: 2)

Our project, funded by Gatsby Charitable Foundation

- ***To develop, implement and evaluate an intervention to enhance subject-specialist pedagogy in ITE for SET teachers***
- We analysed modules on the largest ITE courses.
- Our approach moves from abstraction to application; not tips for teachers.
- Initially we worked directly with trainee teachers and then with teacher educators.

What is pedagogy?

- Pedagogy describes how teachers explain the decisions they make in relation to a particular curriculum or body of knowledge and in relation to a particular group of students.
- It is not ‘just what teachers do’. It has to be articulated.



Online resources for ITE

- [Improving Technical Education](#)



What have we learned to date?

- England does not have enough trainee teachers of SET subjects.
- Pedagogy is a controversial term in technical education.
- Through valuing their subject specialist knowledge we have engaged a wide range of participants in discussion of pedagogy.

Why promote subject-specialist approaches?

- Subject specialist pedagogy (SSP) explicitly values the expert knowledge of the teacher.
- SSP may allow discussion of learning and how that is promoted by well-informed teaching.
- Emphasising informed expertise may challenge reductive understandings of technical skills.
- A conceptual framework to inform decision-making is a productive means to improve SET teaching.