

Core Practices of Experiential Learning at Dickson

Adapted from the original 11 and 2009 adapted Foxfire Core Practices.

1. **The work of teachers and learners is characterized by learner choice, design, and revision.** The central focus of the work grows out of learners' interests and concerns. Most problems that arise are solved in collaboration with learners as learners develop their ability to solve problems and accept responsibility.
2. **The role of the teacher is that of facilitator and collaborator.** Teachers are responsible for assessing and attending to learners' developmental needs, providing guidance, identifying academic givens, monitoring each learners' academic and social growth.
3. **The academic integrity of the work teachers and learners do together is clear.** Mandated learning expectations are identified. Through collaborative planning and implementation, students engage in and master the mandates. Activities assist learners in discovering the value and potential of the curricula and its connections to other disciplines and the world.
4. **Work is characterized by active learning.** Learners are thoughtfully engaged in the learning process, posing and solving problems, making meaning, producing products, and building understanding. The classroom provides an atmosphere of trust where the consequence of a mistake is an opportunity to learn.
5. **New activities spiral out of the old, incorporating prior knowledge and building on skills and understandings that can be amplified.** Rather than a completion of a study as a conclusion, it is regarded as the starting point of new learning.
6. **Peer teaching, small group work, and teamwork are consistent features of classroom activity.** Every learner is included and can identify his/her unique contribution to the work. Collaboration and cooperation are modeled and taught in preparation for an ever changing world.
7. **Connections between the classroom, the community, and the world are clear.** Course content is connected to the community and to larger issues in the community and the world.
8. **There is an audience beyond the teacher for learner work.** Individuals, small groups, or the community affirm that the work is important and worth doing.
9. **Imagination and creativity are encouraged.** The freedom to explore, observe, investigate, and discover are the basis for experiences that lead to a deeper understanding and a desire for learning.
10. **Reflection is an essential activity that takes place at key points in teaching and learning.** Teachers and learners engage in a conscious and thoughtful consideration of the work and the process. Reflection gives rise to revisions and refinements.
11. **The work teachers and learners do together includes rigorous, ongoing assessment, and evaluation.** Teachers and learners enjoy a variety of strategies to demonstrate their mastery of teaching and learning objectives.