

Fall 2015

# Teaching Tips

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*Happy September! I hope you and your county enjoyed the Kentucky State Fair. As fall kicks off, I am sure you are preparing for your fall and spring Extension educational programs.*

As you develop your programs, being aware that each and every learner, regardless of age, brings experience with them to your Extension programs is important. Everyone has had different experiences and education. Just as Malcom Knowles, the father of andragogy (“the art and science of teaching adults”), posited in his principles for teaching adults, agents (educators) need to begin with youth and young adults to help promote lifelong learning. Your Extension programs in schools, clubs, and within communities are pivotal experiences for clientele to learn something new, to try new practices/adopt new behaviors and to aspire to learn more information about topics taught. Learning involves various aspects, and teaching may occur in various ways.

Utilizing various teaching techniques in Extension programs helps us to make learning more effective and allows one to cause people to learn without them being fully aware that they are learning (especially youth). Adults need to know why they should learn information before attending educational programs so be sure to include this in your program marketing materials. Youth often want to know why they should learn information or skills even if they do not ask “Why?” Informing youth about the usefulness of what they learn during or after a program is very appropriate. Youth may feel lost in a school course when they do not understand how, when or why they would use information taught in the classroom. Extension provides an avenue to teach content as well as experiential (hands-on) learning experiences so the “Why?” is shared during your program whether your clients are youth or adults.

I wish you well this fall during your Extension programming! If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact me or other PSD specialists.