



The Dialogue Project promoted links between research on lifelong learning and teaching practice. This video is edited highlights from a seminar in the Centre for Lifelong Learning. It was Val Bissland's contribution to the project and an opportunity to disseminate her doctoral research on learning styles in later life and insights from the brain sciences.

The video takes the form of an 8-minute edited presentation on 'Insights from neuroscience and LLL', followed by edited discussion and feedback from a group of participating students from the learning in later life programme.

Insights from neuroscience

- Brain plasticity
- Making meaning
- Social, emotional and cultural factors
- Exciting learning environments




Brain plasticity

Plasticity is the ability of brain cells to remodel themselves and change physically and functionally throughout all of life in response to experience.

Building deeper understanding

Making meaning



Need for clues to link older knowledge to new input.

Link older and new knowledge




"An emotionally healthy and exciting learning environment promotes optimal learning."
Pat Wolfe, author of 'Brain Matters: Translating research into classroom practice'.




Mirror neurons - Cooperation and interaction

Our brains are designed to connect to other people – it is the basis for effective interaction where we sense what the other is feeling, thinking, intends – an emotional give-and-take.



Do you think these insights from neuroscience have relevance for your classroom learning? Why, or why not?



DISCUSSION session.

Question 1: Do you think these insights have any relevance for classroom learning?

Question 2: How might these be used to improve your learning in practical ways?

valbissland@gmail.com