

Learning From Mistakes



Another way to provide scaffolding is to help students learn from their mistakes. We often think of scaffolding as preventing mistakes, and that can be a part of scaffolding, but we also need to help students appropriately respond when they do make mistakes. There are several key recommendations when you include learning from mistakes in your instruction.

Recommendations

<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Source</i>
Provide students opportunities to make errors	Rodgers
Errors provide times for explanations	Elbers
Errors guide instruction (productive failure)	Fisher and Frey
Balance errors (not too many and not too few); try to find zone of proximal development	Rodgers
Teach based on errors immediately	Rodgers

Source: www.ascd.org/publications/books/111017/chapters/Scaffolds-for-Learning@-The-Key-to-Guided-Instruction.aspx

How does this look in the classroom? There are four steps to learning from mistakes.

Four Steps to Learning From Mistakes

- ◆ Stress: "It's OK to Make Mistakes"
- ◆ Provide Sample Mistakes to Identify
- ◆ Use Students' Mistakes to Inform Your Instruction
- ◆ Admit Your Mistakes and Tell How You Learned to Overcome Them