PASS @ Unitec resource for PASS Leaders

Seven practical tips for one-to-one support:

1. Logistics

   Think about your position in the classroom and about where the students will be. In a one-to-one interaction try sitting next to the student. This will enable you to work together on visual materials and tasks. In helping students on computers it's easy to lean or hover over them.

   Remember too that sitting in one place for a long time can be tiring. Try breaking up the lesson by moving around a bit and if possible encourage your students to do the same thing. This can have noticeable benefits in terms of concentration and motivation.

2. Visual materials

   Visual materials can be very helpful. Get familiar with where there are good visuals for your subject on the internet, and encourage students to explain processes not just do things.

3. Use the student

   We're working with adult students. Many adult students are very focused on getting a job after the course. If you can make the study real in terms of how the learning might be useful in a later job this may make the study more relevant to the student.

4. Give feedback

   Let students know when they have shown a good understanding of the material or done something well. Keep the atmosphere positive and build confidence.

5. Get students to explain to other students

   Once you've explained something to one student, if another student approaches you with the same question, see if you can get the student who knows to talk to the student who doesn't yet know.

6. Homework

   Remind students that study outside class and doing homework is part of the course.

7. Use silence

   Don't be too quick to jump in with more questions or answers if students don't respond immediately. People often need a bit of silent thinking time.

Suggestions adapted from:

Bowen, T. (2011). One-to-One: Teaching tips – ten practical tips. Retrieved from http://www.onestopenglish.com/business/teaching-approaches/teaching-one-to-one/teaching-tips/one-to-one-teaching-tips-ten-practical-tips/144647.article