

Facilitation Goals

Spark
initial interest

Sustain
participation
by following the
learner's ideas

Deepen
understanding
through making
connections

Practices

- Welcome people and invite them to the space
- Introduce the activity and set the mood for the interaction
- Value tentative ideas, “mistakes,” and wrong directions
- Support their process in moments of failure and frustration
- Guide people to go a little bit further than they could on their own
- Surface connections between projects and links to outside learning experiences

Techniques

- Smile and introduce yourself
- Orient learners to the available tools and materials
- Offer a place to start working
- Meet them at eye level when explaining or modeling
- Show examples that demonstrate a variety of thinking
- Suggest a prompt that generates possibilities
- Observe learners for a bit before jumping in
- Ask questions about their process
- Listen to their ideas
- Restate statements or questions
- Offer new materials or tools
- If you don't know the answer, work together
- Give learners suggestions instead of directions
- Show enthusiasm about their ideas
- Encourage people to look around the space for inspiration
- Point out shared goals around the room
- Offer technical terms only when relevant
- Let participants explain their thoughts and define the next steps
- Encourage risk-taking and experimentation
- Offer challenges that allow learners to go further down their own path
- Discuss how the experience might relate to outside interests
- Celebrate moments of wonder, surprise, and joy