

# A Career in Education: Keeping the Passion Going

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## **Pseudo-Teaching:**

Yes, it's fun to teach bright, enthusiastic, self-motivated learners.

But, they really don't need you.

# What about that learner from Hell?

Self-absorbed

Wants to be spoon fed

Constantly appears bored and disinterested

Passive involvement

# Soul of a Teacher

Parker Palmer Courage to Teach Award

Internal reward of helping a learner who may not be able to achieve their goals on their own

# Some Learner “phenotypes”

adapted from Ken Blanchard’s Situational Leadership

Enthusiastic Beginner

Disillusioned Learner

Cautious but Capable Learner

Self-Reliant Achiever

# Enthusiastic Beginner

## **Traits**

Excited  
Optimistic  
Hopeful  
Curious  
Lack competence

## **Possible Teaching Styles**

- High degree of direction
- Very close supervision
- Frequent, formative feedback
- Support and reinforce their enthusiasm

# Disillusioned Learner

## **Traits**

Understands the basics

Discouraged

Losing engagement

## **Possible Teaching Styles**

- “Coaching”
- Close supervision
- Feedback that is more interactive
- Encouragement
- Restore commitment
- Build confidence

# Capable But Cautious

## **Traits**

Competence

Self-doubt holding them back

Won't trust their instincts

Insecure

## **Possible Teaching Styles**

- Supportive Teaching Style
- More distant supervision
- Emphasize successes
- Boost confidence



# Self-Reliant, High-Achieving Learners

## **Traits**

Self-directed learning

Consistently exceeds expectations

Justifiably confident

## **Possible Teaching Style**

- Delegating Style
- Acknowledge excellent performance
- Provide Resources
- Solicit their suggestions for improvement
- Don't get in their way
- Empower and Entrust

# Keeping the “Passion” going

It is nice when you love the educational content

It will work best if you truly are interested  
in seeing your learners succeed

Allow your learners to fuel your passion....  
.....they will if you let them