Giving Students Feedback Using Assessment for Learning (3D)

Answer the following questions:

What is effective feedback?

Effective feedback is feedback that shows support for student learning and growth. When feedback is negative and not effective, it deters students from wanting to improve and leaves them feeling defeated. Little to no improvement will be exhibited by students who receive a negative type of feedback.

How can feedback inform and help a student?

Feedback can inform a student by letting them know the area that they might need a little extra help in. The feedback will also allow the child to understand that the teacher is there to support them with assisting them in weaker subject areas. If a student does not receive feedback, they will not be given the opportunity to learn from their mistakes which hinders their confidence and academic growth.

What is the difference between feedback and advice?

Feedback is a response to an action. A teacher who gives feedback, provides students with the knowledge about their strengths and weaknesses in that particular task/project/ subject. This feedback is simply comments given in a review. While advice, is a call to action and provides direct ideas to what a student can do to improve and succeed. Feedback elicits indirect ideas in providing comments.

Describe 5 effective feedback practices?

One effective way to give feedback is to be sensitive to a student's individual needs. Not all students perform at the same level and learn the same way. Some students thrive on being pushed more than others, while some students require a more gentle approach. Both feedback and students emotions need to be accounted for when giving feedback to not leave students feeling incompetent or discouraged. Another effective feedback practice is to give students feedback that keeps students on target to achieve. Teachers can do this by having regular check-ins to let them know their progress in the class. A third effective practice is to concentrate on one ability or skill for improvement. It gives students a more focused target and prevents students from feeling like they got everything wrong in the paper. This would make the student feel hopeless and overwhelmed when having too many skills to address at once. Using a notebook to keep track of student progress is another effective feedback practice. The notebook should be regularly maintained with dated comments given to students, areas for improvement, test scores, good questions/comments students made. Not only that but noticing student effort is another great way to give effective feedback. By giving praise, it positively encourages academic progression and improvement.