

Neural Connections

Years P-6

Learning Intention

Students understand and are able to verbalise their learning in terms of neural connections.

Outline

Activity to introduce a set of three posters showing: no connection between neurons, weak connection and strong connection. Students discuss what stage of their learning they are at in relation to their neural connections.

You will need:

Video link:

How We Learn- Synapses and Neural Pathways

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BEwg8TeipfQ>

Labelled diagram of a neuron

Set of three Connections posters

Procedure

Revise the structure and function of a neuron. Watch video ***How We Learn- Synapses and Neural Pathways*** and discuss the process of learning something new.

Students draw themselves doing something they can do easily eg. walk. They then draw two neurons showing a strong connection* between them. This represents the thing they can do easily.

Students repeat this exercise for something they are learning but still need practice in and for something they cannot do yet.

Students share their drawings. Show and discuss the three Connections posters.

Make a class list for each poster-

Strong connections- I can already do it

Weak connections- I need practice

No connections- I can't do it yet

**neurons never touch so the 'connection' between neuron is really referring to the ease with which the message passes from neuron to neuron-the first time is hard, with each practice it becomes easier for the message cross the synapse until it becomes automatic.*