

four seasons in one day –

literacies in changing climates

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Technology and learning styles: approaching technology as you do life

**A workshop for teachers using technology in an adult
learning environment.**

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When was the last time you enrolled in a parenting course? When was the last time you had to complete a set of competencies to get through relationship difficulties? How do you make decisions about everyday life matters – what to cook ... where to go on a holiday... how to cater for your ageing parents...

- I'm sure there are courses for all of the above, but usually we resort to other options:
- seeking counsel from friends, family and 'experts in the field'
- trial and error
- muddling through
- making mistakes
- using our intuition
- delving into our life resources

As we know, life can be messy, unpredictable, exciting and scary. We experience success and failure. So why not approach learning with technology in the same manner?

Some Comforting Thoughts **(at the risk of sounding like extracts from 'The Little Book of Calm')**

- Tinkering + Time + Occasional Frustration = Learning
- There are no experts, only people who know more than you.
- Often we feel like we've wasted hours on a computer. Think of this time not as wasted but as time **building your intuition**.
- What we learn in Dreamweaver, Photoshop, Powerpoint, etc. will give us skills to tackle new software applications. The more software applications we use, the more comfortable we become trying something new. Hopefully, the next time we approach new technology (and it just keeps on coming) we will be able to say, "I don't know how to use it, but I think I can try and work it out."
- **Failure** is inevitable - embrace it or laugh in its face. Success will come, and it is sweet.
- Computers/technology should be approached as we approach life – do your best and learn by doing. Question our traditional 'learning styles', as often they are not compatible with computers.
- Find someone who knows more than you and pick his/her brain.
- Don't write down anything. We only write down things we **don't** want to remember.
- The more you use, the better you get.

So, if a teacher or student is more comfortable 'being taught' or following step-by-step instructions, should we cater to this learning style or should we change our learning style? Is it possible, or desirable, to change our learning style?

This workshop will explore the relationship between learning styles and the use of technology in an adult learning environment. The session will address the following issues:

1. What greater social changes have taken place that influence the way people are learning?
2. How can teachers feel more comfortable in a "technologically enhanced" learning environment and reduce frustration levels often associated with technology.
3. What are the causes of teacher/ student frustration?
4. What are the causes of 'technophobia'?
5. What are the new literacies?