

Rationales

Purposes and Rationales

In order to commit to particular purposes one needs to be confident about the rationale for such a commitment.

Rationales

Rationales are complex notions to do largely with values and practicalities. Any rationale for the use of ICT in a particular situation must provide a basis for why ICT should be used to help achieve the associated purposes. Hence it will involve

- (a) some concept of ICT
- (b) its relationship to the values and purposes
- (c) the ways (practices) involved in using ICT to achieve the purposes
- (d) means (available resources) involved in using ICT to achieve the purposes
- (e) and that the above is feasible (pragmatic) & desirable (valuable)

for those involved

A wide range of rationales

Schools report holding a range of rationales for incorporating ICT in their class programs, including one or more of the following common kinds of statements

For more information regarding the ARC LINKAGE Project

'Children, on-line learning and authentic teaching skills in primary education':

Project Website: <http://www.educ.utas.edu.au/users/ilwebb/Research/index.htm>

Key Success Factors for the use of ICT in class programs

Ivan Webb – 4-Feb-04

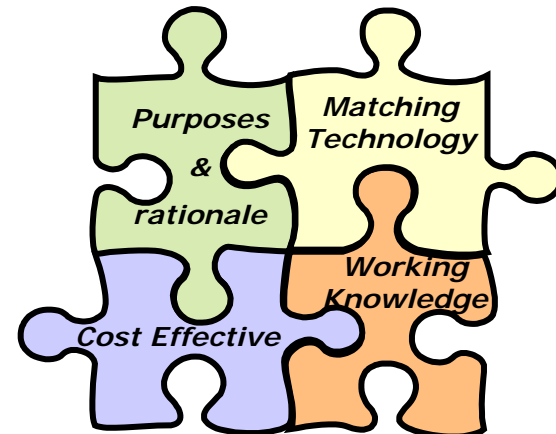
Success Factors

Success factors are those things that, if they were in place, would ensure the success of the enterprise or endeavour.

There are two notions of critical success factors:

- (a) the list individual of factors that are necessary for success
- (b) the group of factors that together are sufficient to ensure success

At this stage of the research we have not yet reached any conclusions regarding the nature of the following list of success factors, however they have been identified as being important for success in incorporating ICT into class programs. It is hoped that subsequent investigations will elaborate this issue.



Key Success Factors

1. Shared purposes and rationales

These inform the application of ICT within the class or school - what is to be achieved and what will be supported.

In the case of isolated successful teachers using ICT the support may come from outside of the school. Thus there are cultural aspects in play. For a teacher these are underpinned by 'membership' of a professional learning network (a community of practice). This network may be the school staff and/or a loosely managed personal/professional group.

With the support and encouragement of others these purposes are then translated into explicit, agreed and supported intentions and practices - what & how - of ICT within teaching & learning. [Note: The sharing of purposes and processes across the school will require explicit governance and a culture of collaboration in relation to ICT]

2. Matching technology is available for use in a timely manner

That is, the technology is available and the teacher can rely on being able to use the technology within the teaching and learning window of opportunity concerned. [See more on reliability]

3. Working knowledge

The teachers and students have sufficient knowledge of, and experience with, ICT to be able to purposes

- (a) select and operate the technology for the intended
- (b) promptly troubleshoot the situations that arise thus maintaining the window of opportunity
- (c) recognize the limitations of the technology and to
- (d) successfully adapt the technology to the purposes of the users

4. Cost effectiveness

The value gained in terms of knowledge, experiences and products is worth the time, effort, cost of devices and consumables, disruption ... involved in the using ICT in teaching and learning activities.

Cost effectiveness is enhanced by such things as

- (a) the ease of use of the software
- (b) the ease with which most students learn how to use the software
- (c) the success of peer tutoring (users supporting each other) in its use
- (d) most students being able to use the software without being distracted by the challenges of using it.

That is, students stay focused on what they were learning about - rather than having to move their thinking to how they managing the technology.