

TEACHING SQUARES

Teaching Squares provide a form of peer support, coaching/ mentoring and development. A Square consists of four teaching colleagues who:

- visit at least one session taught by each Square partner
- reflect on their observation experience
- share reflections with their Square partners
- share their experiences as a group and reflect on the overall experience.

Those involved can be from the same curriculum area or from different areas. Visiting a colleague from a different area can provide a richer experience but might be more difficult to organise.

Teaching Squares provide a safe and mutually supportive environment for you to:

- observe, reflect on and celebrate good teaching and learning
- increase your understanding and appreciation of the work of colleagues
- gather ideas for developing your teaching and learning 'repertoire'
- formulate a plan for trying out and developing new approaches.

DEVELOPING ORGANISATIONS

EDUCATION & TRAINING FOUNDATION

The focus is on learning from observing, not on giving feedback.

PLANNING YOUR TEACHING SQUARE

Each Square can set its own ground rules and procedures but you may want to consider:

- how much notice you give of a visit
- the role of the visiting teacher
- what information is useful in advance of the visit
- how long the visit should last
- when each pair should share their reflections on the visit
- all Squares share – where the whole group reflects on the experience.

Some participants find that the Squares work best when paperwork is kept to a minimum but it is useful to make informal notes as a prompt for reflection and sharing. It takes several weeks to complete a Teaching Square so some planning is needed.