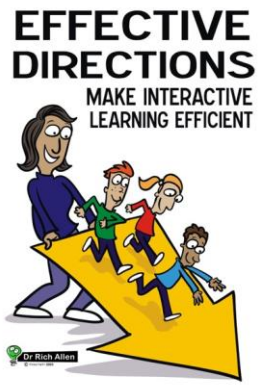
August 2018 Training Tip



Green Light Education
A new perspective



Right and Left May Be Wrong

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When giving instructions during activities, be careful with the words 'left' and 'right.' Because you are typically facing your participants, your right is their left – an issue that can easily lead to confusion. Instead, either provide people with a visual point of orientation or take 'right' and 'left' out of the equation.

For example:

- **Name the location**. Instead of saying, "Turn and face the left side of the room" say "Turn towards the wall with the clock."

- **Point**. Simply point in the direction and ask students to point too. "Point where you're going to stand once you've finished the exercise."

- **Use yourself**. If you want people to gather in a corner of the room, walk there yourself and say, "Join me over here."

- **Either side is fine**. If participants are being asked to discuss something, avoid saying, "Talk to the person on your left." Instead say, "Talk to people on either side of you about …"

Nothing derails an activity more quickly than people getting confused over what they're supposed to be doing. Choose your words carefully and avoid these unnecessary speed bumps in the learning process.