

Transforming Education: Everything We Need to Know We Learned from Saturday Morning Cartoons

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As instructional designers and team leaders we have observed some key themes from cartoons that are important in the daily interactions of our team members.

Context: Working with NetGenners

- Like collaborative work
- Accept alternative ways to achieve a goal
- Expect leading edge technology
- Consider the emotional components of life and learning

Teaching and Learning with Technology

- Our role as Instructional Designer or eLearning Consultant
- Our philosophy about team dynamics
- Our quest to transform education

Look at the Big Picture

- Know the goal
- Stay focused on the goal
- Recognize the red herrings
- Avoid a distracting argument

Importance of goals and planning

- Recognize opportunities
- Have realistic expectations
- Include stakeholders early
- Know your resources (*and* limits)
- But... do not be afraid to dream!

Be careful what you wish for

- Make sure it IS what you want
- Clarify your requests to others
- Be ready to adjust to change

Technology does not solve all our problems

- Do not limit solution to throwing technology at it
- Consider a different vendor
- Use your innate talents (BE the coyote!)

It Takes a Team

- Value different skills
- Success comes unexpectedly
- Different areas, same goal
- Know the "Scooby Snacks"

We are what our team helps us to be

- Supporting team makes the leader look good
- Age does not equal wisdom
- Accept knowledge and help that Netgens bring

Summary

Cartoons can teach us valuable lessons. We need to choose team members with the proper skill sets, reward them appropriately and look at the big picture. While having goals is important, they need to be realistic and adjusted to reflect the current situation. Technology does not solve all our problems, used incorrectly it can magnify them. If we are careful in making requests that are well thought out, our team will be successful, but only if we value all team member's contributions. And as they say on Saturday morning cartoons.... That's all folks!