



# The pedagogy corner

L'école  
éclairée par  
la science

sous la direction de  
**STANISLAS DEHAENE**



Travaux du Conseil scientifique  
de l'éducation nationale



## The 4 pillars of learning

Stanislas Dehaene is a cognitive and experimental psychology professor at the Collège de France, in Paris.

He unraveled 4 fundamental pillars that are conditions to an efficient learning and that directly inspire our pedagogical team.

### 1- Get the pupil's attention

The teacher tries as much as possible to modulate the pupil's attention at the most appropriate moment to have the best quality of listening. We know that attention behaves like a window that selects a reduced amount of information in an environment that is overloaded by signals. We try to use strategies aiming to highlight the essential aspects of the teachings, like a clear explanation of the session goals and feedbacks. The art of staging and pedagogical dramaturgy also are other teaching tools.

### 2- Active commitment

Three elements on which teachers have leverage, can help to get this commitment.

1) Raise curiosity, 2) give frequent opportunities to test oneself with quiz enable the pupil to assess their learnings, to challenge oneself or each other, 3) offer learning situations hard enough to do a cognitive effort. The whole stake is for it to be a challenge while it remains reachable.

### 3- Feedback

In our teachings, we ought to see the mistake as a learning track and to encourage its unraveling, by valuing doubt, reflexion, debate. Questionnings with most immediate possible feedbacks from the teacher or the other pupils, are effective to enable the pupils to readjust their mental models.

### 4- Consolidation

Distribute learning over time. Instead of presenting the notions in a linear approach, it is sometimes possible to intertwine the subjects over several sessions. This planification is a way to review concepts already presented, to compare them, to make inferences, which helps the learning process.



Anthony Belin  
Directeur pédagogique