Supportive Coaching Conversations

Creating the narrative around this session
This short mini-course introduces protocols to participants. It shares with them the power of using protocols when working to build a professional learning community. Through Protocols we can empower staff to talk in professional ways about contexts they feel very passionate about, without losing face, or becoming disrespectful to other’s opinions.

Suggested Activity Timing

| Activity 1: Introducing the Coaching Cue Card | 10 minutes |
| Activity 2: The Coaching Cue Card | 75 minutes |
| Activity 3: Course Reflection | 10 Minutes |
| **Total** | **1 Hour and 35 minutes** |

Activity 1 – Introducing the Coaching Cue Card (10 mins)

**Task 1** - This activity is the core of all Peer Coaching. Without coaching cue card skills, many will struggle to experience a positive coaching relationship with coachees. Do not rush through this section. Take time to make sure the protocol is understood and that everyone has practice and coaching and being coached.

Spend time to walk through the four steps, highlighting the information on the right hand column of the Coaching Cue Card Protocol on page 7 of this module. A simpler version of the coaching cue card can be found in the Peer Coaching Handbook and this should be used in real coaching situations, but to get started it is important to highlight best practice in each of the four steps.

Take time to discuss ‘probing questions’ and how they differ from factual ‘clarifying questions’. Some silent reading and reflection on these notes is recommended.

It is recommended NOT to show a video of a coaching conversation. Each coaching conversation is a very personal and unique experience. It is wrong to show an example of best practice, since each conversation will and should be different.

Activity 2 – The Coaching Cue Card (75 mins)

Spend as much time as the coaches need to get through the practice. Suggest the pairs move to a break out area, or somewhere a little removed and quiet. Wander around during this time paying particular notice to the body language and the questioning strategies.
Task 1 - Sample topics for practice coaching conversations

Below are some topics to help you begin your coaching conversation. Choose one and when asked by your ‘coach’ lead off with this problem.

- How are you preparing your students for their future study and work?
- What would you see and hear if you visited a 21st century classroom?
- What are your favourite web 2 tools? How do you use them to create engaging lessons for your students?

Task 2 - Debrief the activity as suggested.

Activity 3 – Course Reflection Activity (10 mins)

Continue Start Stop!

Invite people to individually reflect, record and share their thinking after reading and conversation around one topic.

- What is something that affirms what you already do, that you will continue to do?
- What is something of importance you have learned that you will start doing?
- What is something you will stop doing?

The focus for this activity should be:

- Something I will do when helping a colleague tomorrow