

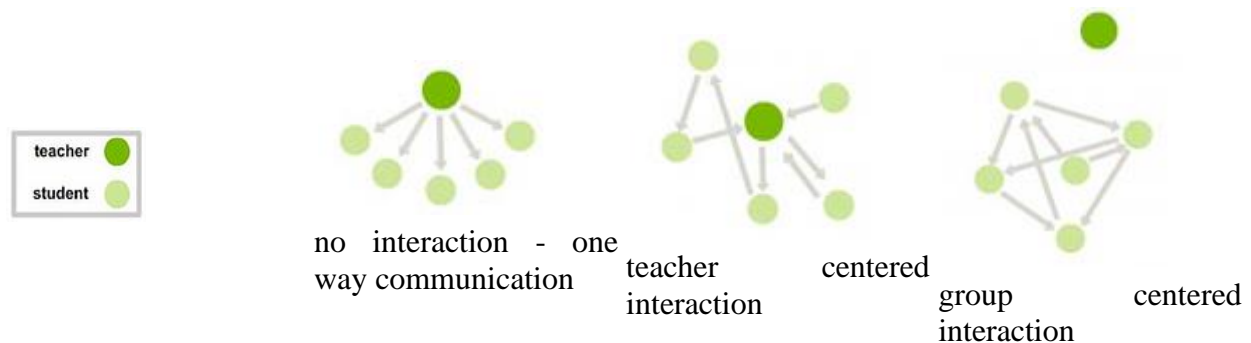
Methods, Techniques and Strategies

If you search the internet for “teaching methods” or “instructional methods” you will find thousands of descriptions of activities – these are called methods. Sometimes they are also called strategies or techniques, and no doubt you will find a good variety of suggestions for activities in teaching procedures to use. But for your work with this program, we prefer to clarify the terms prior to looking at other aspects. This is done so that you can make reasonable decisions in your daily teaching routine.

What is a method?

A method is a description of the way that information or a behavior is carried forward or consolidated during the instructional process.

It is classified after the type of interaction in the classroom:



Examples

- "no interaction": lecture
- "teacher centered interaction": interactive lecture
- "group centered interaction": group work

What is a technique?

A technique is a detailed list of rules or a guideline for any (teaching) activity.

It is based on the description of steps, or a set of do's and don'ts, and can often be linked to a method or strategy.

Examples

- With **mind mapping** you apply guidelines for devising content in a holistic way. This is a technique that can be used in an individual working situation, in a group work, or by the teacher as a means of demonstrating something.
- **Brainstorming** is a group centered interaction method. The brainstorming technique describes a way of collecting ideas or information in a creative and uninhibited way.

What is a strategy?

A strategy defines the basic procedure of how the content is elaborated during the teaching process.

There are two possible alternatives:

1. The cognitive approach

The **cognitive approach** is expository, as information is given in a structured and organized process (top-down). The student's role in this is passive, consuming and "breathing in". The teacher is the constitutive element: he informs, tells, shows, asks, corrects, etc.



2. The affective approach

The **affective approach** is based on "discovering", and uses the curiosity of the student to let him find out something on his own. There is little or no information given, just an issue to explore. Students have to be active and inquisitive to solve the problem. The teacher is not involved. In this student centered strategy, students learn by doing, by experiencing, and by observing.

