

21st century skills at Saxion Teacher Trainer Education Hengelo

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Our society is evolving, and the society change also our education. As a result of the development of the knowledge society and the result of our efforts it is essential that students and children at school are given the opportunity to acquire the right skills. Skills and competences need to function well in the knowledge society, to work and to develop by themselves for life, 21st century skills'. The degree of change in the world requires us to rethink restructuring of education and learning relationship between students, teachers, and knowledge. This is an important reason to change our curriculum of the Saxion Teacher Training Education.

This year (2015) we started with a new program for all third year students. In the curriculum of the teacher training Hengelo we used the 21st century skills as one of the basis for the design. It involves the acquisition of 21st century skills in students in primary school but also experienced this by themselves.

Lectures at Saxion wanted to stimulate more entrepreneurship, encourage critical thinking, creative thinking etc. The lectures decided to use the model of Kennisnet (2011) as a starting point.

Model Kennisnet



(<http://www.kennisnet.nl/themas/21st-century-skills/>)

With a group of lectures with different expertises we started to brainstorm about themes, goals, contents ect. The model is used for the design of the substantive goals and the assessment.

Curriculumdesign

In the first period of the academic third year students begin their specialization period. We decided to organize this period differently according to the principles of the 21st century skills. Students are part of small workgroups (max. 10 students), we call them DOT's (learning community). The group is instructed to develop new education

materials for children in the primary school. There are several conditions where the material must meet:

1. It will stimulate students in the elementary school skills and competencies of the 21st century
2. it must be innovative
3. integration of various disciplines
4. encourages thinking skills
5. etc.

Every DOT-group have a lecture. They come together once a week, one hour. Then they talk about instructioncollege, read the literature, and experience in practice. The initiative lies with the student the lecture is listener and tries to bring coherence.

After eight weeks the education material will be finished. Every group have made tutorial and will present the education material in an Pitch. Afterwards, students are substantively questioned in discussion groups by different lectures.

Summarizing:

- The test (tutorial, pitch and discussion), and the design of the small workgroups stimulates some 21st century skills in students.
- The commission makes students aware of boosting skills in elementary school children
- The lecture takes on a different role, he will be more coach

The first experiences are very positive. Students are motivated and committed. Lectures are enthusiastic and more aware of their different role. Next year we will develop this further with more lectures. We are convinced that we can thus contribute to changes in the primary education.

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