

- Setting questions in the same context and asking them to apply what they have learned in a new situation
- Giving a formal test

These decisions need to be included in your lesson plan so that any other adult who needs to be involved in the lesson can be included and is made aware of their role.

## 6.2 Creating a Positive Atmosphere

All of the above should set the classroom scene. The role of the teacher in creating the atmosphere in the classroom is central to everything that happens to promote teaching and learning.

Teaching approaches should be consistent. Learners will struggle to engage in active learning where they work with talk partners and groups if they are usually discouraged from talking. Creative thinking would be difficult in a classroom where this is not encouraged. Working in a group is not easy if learners are used to working individually.

Excellent active learning activities resulting in such positive assessment practices will not take place in a 'non-productive' atmosphere.

The best assessment for learning will happen where the teacher creates an environment where everyone is comfortable and familiar with routines. Learners will respond to all kinds of activities if the atmosphere is one that encourages them to participate fully in developing their learning.

The role of the teacher will be to:

- Ensure that learners take an active role in the learning process
- Show appreciation of everyone's ideas
- Encourage learners to give good reasons for their ideas
- Involve everyone in discussions
- Inspire confidence in learners to test their own ideas
- Make sure learners have enough time to explore ideas properly
- Help learners to work together and share their ideas with others and to appreciate the ideas of others
- Encourage learners to make their own decisions
- Use varied questioning techniques and encourage learners to think of their own questions
- Make learning English enjoyable and fun