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Self-Directed Professional Development in Computer-Assisted Language Learning

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>> Panel members suggest practical strategies for teachers in computer-assisted language learning (CALL) environments to engage in self-directed professional development (SDPD) and propose a 4Es model. <<



Self-Directed Professional Development (SDPD) Strategies for Teachers in CALL Environments: 4Es

1. Explore

- Find out what technologies are available to you;
- Understand what your options are;
- Take a survey course in CALL;
- Go through an introductory book;
- Attend a range of CALL-related presentations at conferences;
- Try one technology at a time so that you have sufficient time and energy to learn to use it well.

2. Engage

- Ask your colleagues questions who have more expertise in CALL than you;
- Meet and connect with other educators;
- Get support from a relevant community of practice;
- Share your experiences with others;
- Encourage others to share with you.

Self-Directed Professional Development (SDPD) Strategies for Teachers in CALL Environments: 4Es

3. Evaluate

- Test technologies and tools yourself;
- Make an informed decision on how to integrate technology into the classroom;
- Do action research with students in the classroom;
- Keep a reflective journal of how it goes.

4. Enhance

- Strive to become proficient and competent with tools and techniques;
- Percolate your learning so it blends with your teaching;
- Use Google when you run up against a problem – others have probably asked the same question.