Personalized learning: the past, present and future of ELT

PHILIP KERR

https://adaptivelearninginelt.wordpress.com/
Defining personalized learning

differentiated learning 
individualized instruction
individualization
individually prescribed instruction
learner-centred education
personalized learning
Personalized learning in ELT: early days (1970s)

4. **Transfer Exercise**

Write 5 or more true sentences about yourself, friends or relations, using the word *ago*.

*Example:*

I left school 5 years ago.
My parents and I spent 2 months in Italy 3 years ago.

Personalized learning in ELT: early days (1970s)

Each learner is unique in personality, abilities, and needs. Education must be personalized to fit the individual; the individual must not be dehumanized in order to meet the needs of an impersonal school system. Educating students in a humane way can lead ultimately to a better society characterized by tolerance, co-operation, and greater concern for others.

Personalized learning: now
Personalized learning: technology

We believe in personalized learning, an approach to customizing each student’s learning path to meet their needs and interests. Digital learning is one tool that enables this approach, and leaders in our local Bay Area schools identified it as a priority for our support.
Personalized learning: the backers
Personalized learning: marketing


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**Defining personalized learning**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Areas of Individualization</th>
<th>Instructional Style</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Choice of Course Objectives</td>
<td>Independent Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Development of Preferred Skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choice of Rate of Learning</td>
<td>Continuous Progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Flexible Pacing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choice of Methods of Learning</td>
<td>Multimedia Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choice of Content of Learning</td>
<td>Mini-Courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Interdisciplinary Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elective Assignments</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Personalized learning: the research

- Course objectives
- Rate of learning
- Methods of learning
- Content of learning

Goal-setting
Self-pacing
Learning styles, learning preferences, SpLDs
Learning materials
Goal-setting

Benefits

Learner autonomy and learner agency

“ultimate attainment in second-language learning relies on one’s agency ... [it] is crucial at the point where the individuals must not just start memorizing a dozen new words and expressions but have to decide on whether to initiate a long, painful, inexhaustive, and, for some, never-ending process of self-translation”

Goal-setting

Problems

- High-stakes standardized testing
- Organizational contexts
- Content requirements
- Teacher workload
- Necessary conditions of personalized goal-setting
Too many Australian children are failing to reach their potential at school because of the restrictive nature of year-level progression, the report said.
Self-pacing

- The Pueblo (1884 – 1894), Burk (1912 – 1915), Winnetka (1920s), & Dalton (1920s) Plans
- Programmed Instruction (1960s / 1970s)
- Classrooms and individual study (carts and horses)
Instructional approach & learning materials

- Personal interests
Instructional approach & learning materials

- Personal interests
- Learning styles
- Learning preferences
- SpLDs
Personalized learning: recent research


Thanks!

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