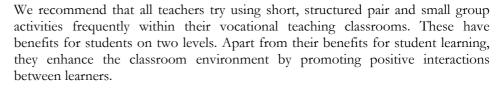
Benefits of using pair and small-group activities in VET classes





The social perspective: enhancing the learning environment

From the social perspective, pair and small group activities:

- promote interaction between students who might otherwise not mix together in class, eg local and international students
- allow students to share experiences that relate to the topic, and so learn more about each other as people
- lead to opportunities for sharing humour and create a more relaxed learning environment
- foster cooperation rather than competition in the class
- encourage peer cooperation that extends to other learning situations
- develop a sense of group identity amongst students
- create opportunities for input from less confident students since they find it easier to speak in smaller groups than to the whole class
- help students develop confidence in expressing their ideas to others
- create a space for putting forward differing opinions in a non threatening situation
- create gradual opportunities for students to develop generic skills, such as working in teams, active listening, expressing their ideas in a convincing manner
- encourage constructive discussion between students.



Belonging builds group identity

The learning perspective

From the learning perspective, pair and small group activities:

- encourage constructive discussion between students that assist them to form their own understanding of the topic
- help students strengthen their understanding through listening to the ideas of others and putting their own ideas into words
- allow students to tackle more challenging learning tasks than they would do if working alone.
- Encourage students to complete tasks that they may have given up on individually
- Provide opportunities for clarifying ambiguities through input of different opinions



Build confidence Foster cooperation → generic skills development

Build student confidence through peer support with tasks