

Student 5: Low Achieved

NZQA Intended for teacher use only

I took a group of Year 9s for kayaking in the school pool. The first session I taught the group to do the capsized drill and the importance of having a safety buddy.

I decided to use the contemporary leadership principle of transactional leadership. Transactional leaders are those who believe that people are motivated by reward or punishment. These leaders give clear instructions to followers about what the expectations of them are, and when those expectations are fulfilled, there are rewards in store for them. In the case of my session rewards were chocolate fish for those students who were able to complete capsized drill safely. There were also punishments if they didn't meet those expectations for example, press ups on the side of the pool. Transactional leadership includes setting goals and monitoring goals. This leadership principle uses extrinsic motivation to increase results. This principle of leader focuses on a series of transactions – this is how the leadership principle gets its name. These principles of leaders are generally found in the business world and in the armed forces.

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The session was successful in that seven out of ten were able to reach the goals set for the session. Two of the seven were removed for repeated unsafe behavior such as capsizing without a buddy, dunking other students, and one student withdrew from the activity because he was scared of being underwater in a kayak. Some aspects of the session were not so positive as the pairs who didn't get a chocolate fish were complaining and the pairs that had to do press-ups said "kayaking sucks!"

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If I were to teach kayaking again I would use the distributed principle of leadership. This would mean I wouldn't have to take full responsibility for every aspect of the lesson as roles would be distributed and the responsibility would be shared. I would delegate roles, such as, kayak and equipment officer who would be responsible for equipment; a safety officer who would check safety of gear and people; and the kayaker who focuses on completing the task safely.

Next time I would also focus on the intrinsic rather than the extrinsic rewards of activity.

I have learnt a lot from researching leadership principles and leading the kayaking session and feel I have a better understanding of how the principle in which I use to lead impacts on the experience of others in the group. I can use these skills in my future workplace as well as in my sporting pursuits.