

## **Educational - a humanistic educational psychology**

In its educational application, transactional analysis offers a model for understanding personality, human development, communication and personal life patterns. It provides ways to describe and explain both internal and interpersonal behaviour, in an innovative and accessible manner. Because of its emphasis on the interactional aspects of communication, it is invaluable in all branches of education.

Three philosophical concepts underpin TA in education:

1. Respect for the dignity of all human beings and empathic acceptance of them is central to successful relationships between teachers and learners. TA describes this concept as the 'I'm OK - You're OK' position.
2. People at all ages and stages of development are capable of learning to take responsibility for their decisions and actions.
3. Educational difficulties can be addressed effectively with co-operative goodwill and a coherent theoretical framework which clarifies the human dynamics involved.

Educational TA is contractual, so that all parties know where they stand, and what agreements have been made for what purposes. Throughout the process, the ideas and methods are used openly, to promote informed co-operation in the aim of power being shared between all parties.

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TA's theoretical model of human development is valuable in understanding the learning process. Life plans can be revised at any stage of growth so that students may realise their full learning potential. There is a huge range of field in which educational TA can be practiced - e.g as well as being applied within schools and other formal educational establishments, it has great benefit for self development in settings such as social work, probation, parenting and family work, refugees and so on.