# **Module 1 Teacher for Learning**

Activity #4- What’s in it for me?

I teach a forth semester online course in the distance ECE program. The final assignment is a group assignment and I often have “pushback” from students. Some feel that they signed up for online learning so that they could work independently. Over the past few years I have had to consider this from a student’s point of view.

Now rather than waiting for questions or concerns to arise, I address them at the beginning of the course. I recognize that group work can be challenging, especially in an online environment. Then I highlight the many benefits of group work, such as drawing from the skill set of the group, discussing different opinions, the ability to break the assignment down into smaller tasks, work on communication skills as well as time management skills. I then remind the students that in the field of ECE, no work is ever done in isolation. You always work in a team, including the children, their families and other staff.

Finally, I explain that the Essential Employability Skills are also part of their learning and I identify the specific skills that are addressed in the course.

At the end of the course I have had many students tell me that while they were concerned at first, they really appreciated the opportunity to work in a group and it was a great way to connect with other distance students.

Thinking about things from a student’s perspective really did help with the concerns and hopefully reduced some of the student anxiety.



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