

# Attention! Hot topics in education

From EQ to e-learning, learner attention spans and the roles teachers play, here's a look at trends in education for the coming year...

## EDUCATION TRENDS FOR 2018

1

### E-LEARNING STATS FROM FIN24 JAN 2016

The global researchers expect e-Learning revenues will reach

**\$50.4bn**

by 2020, and say the sweet spot in this market will be

**AFRICA**

Africa is the most dynamic **E-LEARNING MARKET** on the planet and has the highest growth rate for Self-paced e-Learning in the world at **16.3%**, writes Ambient.

"Ambient Insight has revised our forecasts significantly upward for most African countries. Revenues reached

**\$523m**

in 2015 and will nearly double to \$1.1bn by 2020."

2

### LEARNER ATTENTION SPANS ATTENTION SPAN STATISTICS

Attention spans have shrunk by **50%** over the past decade.

Attention spans in 1998: **12 mins**

Attention spans in 2008: **5 mins**

Children diagnosed with ADHD: **9.5%**

With learner attention spans getting lower by the year, experiential learning is key and can be described as "**LEARNING THROUGH REFLECTION ON DOING**". Hands-on learning is a form of experiential learning and is distinct from rote or didactic learning, in which the learner plays a comparatively passive role. Project based learning, another form of learning through "doing" is a dynamic classroom approach in which **STUDENTS ACTIVELY EXPLORE REAL-WORLD PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES AND ACQUIRE A DEEPER KNOWLEDGE**. Learners gain knowledge and skills by working for an extended period of time to investigate and respond to an authentic, engaging and complex question, problem, or challenge.

3

### SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

There is a strong need for

>>>

**SEL**

In a meta-analysis involving more than 200 studies and 270,000 students, Durlak et al (2011) found "those who participated in evidence-based SEL programmes showed an 11 percentile-point gain in academic achievement compared to students who did not participate in SEL programmes."

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## A NEW ROLE FOR TEACHERS



### AFTER DECADES

of relatively unchanged form and function, the job description of a teacher has undergone some significant transformations in a short period of time.

The traditional "**STAND-AND-DELIVER**" method of instruction is being pushed out by the "**GUIDE-ON-THE-SIDE**" approach, just as the "cemetery" classroom is being replaced with

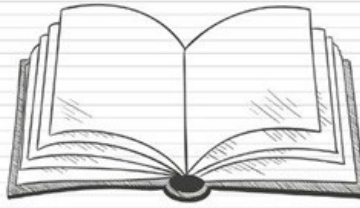
### CREATIVE COMFORTABLE LEARNING SPACES

Today's teachers are trending in the direction of mentors and coaches for their students, overseeing activities and providing assistance when needed, but not the helicopter oversight that was once an expectation. **TEACHERS ARE LECTURING LESS AND CONSULTING MORE**, encouraging students to discover and explore their passions in a more flexible manner.



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## EARLY LITERACY



Educators and education advocates now realize the importance of early childhood education on setting a student's success trajectory throughout their school careers.

### WHEN PARENTS READ TO CHILDREN ALOUD EARLY AND OFTEN

it not only exposes them to **NEW VOCABULARY** and familiarizes them with **LANGUAGE**, it models **FLUENCY**, which is important for students' own development. A new study found that **DIGITAL STORYBOOKS** can be just as effective as a parent reading to young children, a development that could be helpful for children whose parents may work multiple jobs or longer hours. And a number of **TELEVISION SHOWS** on public access channels promote literacy as well, another resource that could serve as an equalizer for students from lower-income households.



#### SOURCES

<https://brandongaille.com/average-attention-span-statistics-and-trends/> (May 2017)  
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<https://www.educationdive.com/news/5-trends-in-literacy-education-for-2017/442117/>

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Infographic compiled and supplied by the Sifiso Learning Group

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