



Cooking with Information

A metaphor for active, hands-on instruction, including use of technology



The story you're telling:
Children have to know how to use information like cooks use ingredients. This involves selecting, evaluating, and combining the ingredients in a hands-on, exploratory way.

Strategic way to redirect thinking away from patterns such as:



**Assessment = Standardized/Summative Tests;
Back to Basics; Passive Learning; Technology
Is Dangerous; Willpower**

Concepts and ideas included in this frame element:

- **Student as cook** helps to redefine the role of the learner: active participant, using tools, solving problems, producing knowledge. Cooks get their hands dirty.
- **Information as ingredient** helps to redefine the process of learning: involves analysis, active application of concepts to a defined task, synthesis and blending of ideas, self-assessment and peer-assessment.
- **Skills as tools and strategies** helps to communicate the importance of critical thinking skills and meta-cognitive skills.
- **Learning as the process of creating dishes** helps to redefine the goal of instruction: production of relevant work, for real audiences and real purposes, but also, development of skills that will be transferred to future learning and tasks.

(Continued on reverse)



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Concepts and ideas included in this frame element:

- **Classroom as cooking class** helps to redefine what learning looks like: hands-on, active, even in the early stages of learning something new.
- **Teacher as mentor chef** helps to redefine the role of the teacher: setting up environment, suggesting new challenges, introducing new tools, assisting when needed, offering expert advice on a work in progress, ensuring safety.
- **Digital media as a new ingredient or kitchen tool** helps to establish the use of technology for research and application, rather than as a source of danger or distraction.
- **Great cooks follow recipes and improvise:** establishes an appropriate balance between structure and freedom/creativity in the learning process.

Read the original research behind this recommendation at FrameWorksInstitute.org