

Module 11-3 - Learning and teaching theories **Theories developed in relation to adult learners**

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Given that early work was based on research with animals and children, it is useful to consider research that was based on adult learners. As a result of the corporatisation of businesses in the post WWII period, and the role of continuing professional development within companies, theorists began to explore how adults made meaning.

The resources in this section provide a snapshot of these ideas. Knowles (1970) described the characteristics of adult learners and the processes that can be used to facilitate adult learning. Mezirow (1991) proposed a transformative learning theory and emphasised the importance of making meaning - and Argyris and Schön (1974), who postulated theories of action, identified the gap that often exists between the theories we espouse and those we put into practice.

We hope that you enjoy these resources.



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