



SKILLS BY STEALTH

Introducing academic culture to low level
EAP learners

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INTRODUCTION

- Define “Skills by Stealth”
- Background to research
- Context of research
- Research results
- Implications
- Conclusion
- Questions



BACKGROUND TO RESEARCH

- Project-Based Learning
- Learner Autonomy
- Learning in Higher Education



RESEARCH CONTEXT

- Nottingham Trent International College
- Level and Stage of learners
- Student projects at the college
- Role of projects in teaching
- Motivation for the research
- Study aim:

to establish if student projects can be used to help bridge the cultural gap for low level learners in HE



RESULTS

- Initial response
- Areas of difficulty (for students)
- Suggested support for students
- Tutor support



INITIAL RESPONSE

- 'yes' but 'no'
- Positive responses
 - Introduces research skills
 - Encourages use of learning strategies
 - Provides a genuine opportunity to communicate
 - Learn independently from a tutor in groups
- Negative responses
 - Time constraints
 - Not relevant for future study
 - Too challenging for the level & stage of development
 - Assessing items which have not been taught



AREAS OF DIFFICULTY

- Expectations – criteria
- Reflective reports
- Confusing reports and presentations
- Language and skills
- Knowledge transfer



STUDENT SUPPORT

- Clarifying expectations
 - Information on the projects
 - Assessment criteria
- Offering tutorials and guidance
- Links within and across Pre-Sessional English modules
- Material
 - Samples (sample reports and presentations)
 - Worksheets



TUTOR SUPPORT

- Time – scheduled
- Materials
- Marking support and standardisation
- Background information to the projects
- Tutor communication



IMPLICATIONS – WHAT NEXT?

- Improve implementation of projects
- Establish means communication
- Time –schedule
- Material – examples
 - reflective aspect
- Introduce Blended Learning element

<http://pespring2011.pbworks.com>



CONCLUSION

○ Projects work if.....

- * time is allocated
- * support is given to students
- * tutors are supported
- * they are integrated



THANK YOU

