An approach to teacher professional development that empowers teachers with options

FOR TEACHERS | WITH TEACHERS
Teaching is an incredibly demanding profession. This is especially true for new teachers and teachers working in development contexts. With so much new curriculum, many students to serve, resources to prepare and additional duties to complete, there is hardly enough time in a day for reflection and professional development. The LEARN-CHOOSE-USE (LCU) approach was developed for teachers, with teachers in the everyday trenches of the classroom. LCU is designed to efficiently introduce teachers to a wealth of teaching strategies, techniques and routines, empowering them to choose what is right for them and their classroom.

The process is simple:

1. **LEARN**
   We believe there is not one best way to teach. Just as each student learns in a slightly different way, each teacher brings their own flavor to how they teach. During training, teachers **LEARN** a variety of methods they can use to improve a specific teacher competency. The goal is to expand each teacher’s toolbox of classroom activities, routines and methods through modelling how each method is used.

2. **CHOOSE**
   After watching and learning the different ways a teacher can effectively demonstrate a specific competency, (e.g. managing a class or introducing critical thinking activities) each teacher is asked to **CHOOSE** a new method to try in their class. In a training setting, teachers are given time to develop resources needed for their upcoming lesson.

3. **USE**
   In a training setting, teachers are given time to practice **USING** their new techniques alongside their peers. After the training is completed, teachers are assessed during a follow-up observation to get individualized feedback on how they are progressing. Our experience has been that teachers who get to choose the methods they want to use are much more likely to include these techniques in their daily teaching routines.

**TEACHERS CAN ALSO LEARN-CHOOSE-USE AT THEIR SCHOOL**
We always recommend that teachers engage in professional development in a group whenever possible, because too many teachers work in isolated classrooms. Teachers can learn so much from each other. It is best to use the LCU approach with your colleagues to expand your teacher toolbox. We’re sure some of you have used these techniques before, and one of the best ways to learn is from someone who has already tried some of these techniques.