


## Section: Our personal mental models

<b>Activity 4</b>	<b>Mental models about learning</b>  <b>30 mins</b>
<b>Description:</b>	This is a small group discussion activity.
<b>Use(s):</b>	Having explored the notion of mental models, this activity gives Fellows the opportunity to uncover some mental models they and others may hold about learning.
<b>Preparation:</b>	None.

One of the best ways to test out our mental models and interrogate some of the assumptions we hold as a group or as individuals is to focus on one shared area of work.

Let's think about learning and ask these questions:

1. What do we know as a fact about learning?
2. What do we sense is true but cannot yet support with evidence?
3. What don't we know that we need to know?
4. What are our questions and ponderables?
5. What is currently unknowable?
6. What aspects of learning could we use UFA activity to investigate?

As you talk check out:

- The conclusions you or someone else may be making.
- Check out or ask for the evidence that leads to this conclusion.
- Inquire into the reasoning that links the data with the conclusion.

### Discussion prompts

- What sort of questions helped to uncover the mental models that were emerging in the conversation?
- The organisations and tutors we work with will hold certain mental models: what sort of questions will help us to uncover those mental models?
- Young people will hold mental models: what sort of questions will help us to help young people to uncover those models?

### Learning to be drawn from this activity

- We all have mental models about learning. In order to change behaviours and attitudes we need to have an awareness of what these might be so we can address them.
- Parents/communities too will have these and these all need to be taken into account.
- The models of learning we choose to adopt depend very much on what we believe about learning.