



## Don't Talk To Strangers!

**When we were younger, we were told by adults, “Don’t talk to strangers!”**

**This was good advice – for then.**

**As we got older we found out that it’s ok to talk to strangers.**

**In fact, it’s sometimes necessary to get things done.**

**Like asking someone where to find something in a grocery store or chatting with your uber/lyft driver to ensure they know where you’re going (and that they’re really your driver!).**

As trainers, we sometimes forget that it’s OK to talk to strangers.

Particularly in WELCOMING our participants!

A learner who feels welcomed is more likely to engage in the learning experience.

Making learners feel welcome starts WAY before the actual training session begins.

It starts by connecting with them prior to the session. This can be done via email and can include things like:

- Time and date of the session
- Location and directions (if off-site)
- Background on YOU (if they do not know you)
- WIIFT – What’s In It For Them to attend. Even if it’s mandatory – stating the WIIFT increases learner engagement
- Overview of the content

- Preparation required. This includes things like thinking about a certain project to use for the application, bringing sample workpieces, a reading assignment, etc.
- A handout sent in advance, if it is a virtual session, so they have time to review and prepare.

Having a **welcoming learning environment** for them to enter is also important.

Here are some tips to enhance your learning environment:

- Arrive early to prepare/set up so that you are ready when they enter (virtually or classroom).
- Greet everyone as they arrive – especially important in a virtual environment!
- Make the learning space visually interesting. Include a welcome chart and tabletop toys in the classroom and a ppt “loop” in the virtual classroom along with a welcome message.
- Encourage participants to meet one another.
- Incorporate a session starter into the introduction. For online learning, this can include orienting them to the platform like drawing on a map, using their status or participating in a poll.

For more information on ensuring *your learners* feel welcome, click on the resources below that we’ve especially just for you! We also have more sessions scheduled for this Fall:

### ***Facilitate Training for Results!***

One-Day Workshop  
May 14th - DC Metro area

### ***Take Your Training from Snore to Score: Make Adult Learning Come to Life!***

One-Day Workshop  
May 15th - DC Metro area

### ***Stop Running the Vacuum! Set Productive Learning Environment.***

60 Minute Training Essentials Virtual Mini (recorded)

Let’s get the party started!

**Cheers,  
Team M&M  
Maria Chilcote & Melissa Smith  
Managing Partners**



**The Training Clinic**  
[thetrainingclinic.com](http://thetrainingclinic.com)

info@thetrainingclinic.com  
800-937-4698

