



In the Hot Seat

Intermediate (Classes 7-10)

Foundation House / Elementary (Classes 5-7)



The Life of Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi (Pestalozzi Approach)

Version 1

The participants sit in a circle.

The facilitator takes the role of Pestalozzi (or any other character in his life) and wears an item of clothing to indicate this. The facilitator role-play may start with the teacher acting a short scene from Pestalozzi's life, such as the episode when he gives his silver shoe buckles to a beggar (refer to 'The Life of Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi').

The participants take it in turns to ask 'Pestalozzi' questions. These may be related to any area the facilitator wishes the students to learn. The questions could be to do with a particular period of Pestalozzi's life (for example his time at Stans), a particular aspect of his educational approach (for example the aims of his educational approach) or general questions about his life (for example, 'What is your wife's name?' or 'Where were you born?').

Version 2

Where the activity is to be used for revision and assessment, a participant can take Pestalozzi's role. The rest of the participants take it in turn to ask 'Pestalozzi' questions. These may be related to any area the facilitator wishes the participants to revise.

When the participants being Pestalozzi gets an answer wrong, he or she is replaced by another.

Version 3

A less threatening version of this activity involves there being several Pestalozzis to answer the questions – a panel of Pestalozzis! Three participants become Pestalozzis and may confer with each other before answering the questions. If the panel fails to get the answer to the question, the panel is replaced by another three participants.

Materials Needed

- A hat, a coat and a scarf for 'Pestalozzi' to wear
- Coins and 'silver' buckles for the scene involving Pestalozzi with the beggars

