

# Characteristics of Adult Learners

## Self-Concept

The adult learner sees herself as capable of self-direction and desires others to see her the same way. In fact, one definition of maturity is the capacity to be self-directing.

Implications:

Supervisor's role:

## Experience

Adults bring a lifetime of experience to the learning situation. Young people tend to regard experience as something that has happened to them, while to an adult, his experience is him. The adult defines who she is in terms of her total life experience.

Implications:

Supervisor's role:

## Characteristics of Adult Learners (continued)

### Readiness-to-Learn

Adult developmental tasks increasingly move toward occupational role competence and away from the more physical developmental tasks of childhood.

Implications:

Supervisor's role:

### Center-Time Perspective

Young people tend to think of education as the accumulation of knowledge for use in the future. Adults tend to think of learning as a way to be more effective.

Implications:

Supervisor's role: