

Transfer

Education

Why a skill learned in one setting so often fails to appear in another.

Near transfer is common. Far transfer is rare and hard to engineer.

What limits transfer

Skills are tied to the content they were learnt on

Surface features dominate novice sorting

General thinking skills transfer poorly

Chess and music training do not raise IQ

Domain knowledge does most of the work

What helps a little

Teach with several varied examples

Name the deep structure explicitly

Compare cases that differ on the surface

Practise in the setting where it is needed

Return to the idea in a new context later

Educational reference. Claims that a subject trains the mind in general are old and weakly supported. Teach the thing you want learnt.