

Curated Learning

Starter Checklist

A practical guide for SMEs who want learning that actually gets used.

BEFORE YOU START: SET THE GUARDRAILS

- We are curating learning to solve a real performance problem, not “because learning is good”
- We know who this learning is for (role, team, or situation)
- We’ve agreed what “better” would look like (e.g. fewer questions, better decisions, smoother onboarding)

If you can’t answer these three, pause here. Curation without purpose becomes noise.

STEP 1: CLARIFY WHAT ACTUALLY MATTERS

- We’ve identified 1–3 priority skill or performance areas
- These are based on real observations, not assumptions
- We can describe the problem in plain language
- We’ve resisted the urge to “cover everything”

“If this improved, what would be easier day to day?”

STEP 2: FIND CONTENT WORTH CURATING

- Resources come from credible sources
- Content is practical, not overly theoretical
- Format suits real work (short videos, guides, examples)
- Content is current and still relevant
- Each resource earns its place

Sense-check questions:

- Would I actually use this myself?
- Could someone apply this within a week?
- Does it solve the problem we identified?

STEP 3: CHOOSE WHERE LEARNING WILL LIVE

- We're using a tool people already use (e.g. Slack, Teams, shared drive)
- No extra logins or complicated navigation
- Location is easy to find again
- Access works for everyone who needs it

If people need instructions on how to access it, it's too complex.

STEP 4: ORGANISE BEFORE YOU SHARE

- Content is grouped into clear categories
- Each resource has a short description explaining why it's useful
- We've limited the number of resources per topic
- We've removed anything that's "nice to know"

Helpful structure ideas:

- By role
- By task
- By common problem
- By stage (e.g. new starter → confident)

STEP 5: DESIGN FOR REAL USE (NOT CONSUMPTION)

- Learning fits into the flow of work
- Resources are short enough to use under pressure
- People know when to use what
- Learning supports action, not just awareness

"When would someone actually need this?"

STEP 6: ENCOURAGE ENGAGEMENT (LIGHT TOUCH)

- Managers know this exists and why it matters
- Expectations are realistic (no mandatory binge-learning)
- Sharing insights or tips is encouraged, not forced
- Learning feels supportive, not monitored

Remember:

If learning feels like another task, it will be avoided.

STEP 7: KEEP IT USEFUL OVER TIME

- We have a simple review habit (monthly or quarterly)
- Outdated content is removed
- New needs are added gradually
- Feedback is welcomed and acted on

Simple signals to watch:

- What gets used
- What gets ignored
- What questions keep coming back

FINAL SENSE CHECK

- This curated learning solves a specific problem
- It's easy to access and easy to use
- It respects time-poor teams
- It supports performance, not just learning activity

If you can tick most of these boxes, you're on the right track.

Curated learning works best when it's intentional.

If you'd like help designing curated learning that fits your business, your tools, and your people without adding more systems or overwhelm that's exactly what we do at Jessanol.

