Microlearning for Teachers
(5 minutes total)

High-Leverage Practice 16

Use explicit instruction

Why it matters

Explicit instruction makes learning clear and intentional. It makes learning more accessible for all. Students are shown what to do and how to do it before being asked to demonstrate it independently. This approach reduces confusion and supports learners in building confidence as responsibility shifts gradually from teacher to student.

Explicit instruction honors each learner by removing guesswork and ensuring that effort is spent on thinking and learning rather than trying to figure out expectations.

Try This Tomorrow
Review your next lesson and ask:

- Have I clearly stated what students are learning?
- Will students see the thinking before they try it themselves?

Add **one explicit instructional move**:

- Name the learning goal in student-friendly language
- Model the process with a brief think-aloud
- Pause for guided practice before independent work

Clarity comes first. Independence follows.

Look-fors in the classroom
You'll know explicit instruction is working when:

- Students begin tasks with confidence
- Directions do not need to be repeated
- Learners can explain both the process and the outcome

When instruction is explicit, learning becomes predictable and achievable.

Student-Facing Learning Support Template

(Aligned to HLP 16 | Clear Learning and Gradual Release)

Today's Learning Goal

I am learning:

This matters because:

First: I Observe and Listen

(Teacher Modeling)

What I noticed during the example or explanation:

Next: We Practice

(Guided Learning)

One step I practiced with support:

What helped me understand:

> □ Seeing an example
> □ Talking it through
> □ Practicing together

Then: I Try It Independently

(Independent Practice)

□ I know the steps
□ I can explain my thinking
□ I know when to ask for help

Quick Self-Check

(After Independent Practice)

Right now, I would say:

> □ I can do this independently
> □ I can do this with a little support
> □ I need more practice or a different strategy

One thing that helped me:

After Learning

(Reflection and Transfer)

One thing I can do on my own now:

One step I will keep practicing: