

Microlearning for Teachers

(5 minutes total)

High-Leverage Practice 11

Use Explicit Instruction

Why it matters

Explicit instruction makes the learning process clear, visible, and intentional for students. Instead of assuming learners will infer how to complete a task, teachers model thinking, provide guided practice, and gradually release responsibility.

This approach is especially effective because it:

Reduces confusion and cognitive overload

Makes expectations explicit

Scaffolds success while building independence

Explicit instruction benefits all learners, not just those who struggle, by ensuring everyone knows what to do and how to do it.

Try This Tomorrow

Before you teach, review your lesson. ask:

- Have I clearly named the learning goal?
- Will students see how to do the thinking before they try?

Add **one explicit move**:

- State the learning goal in student-friendly language
 - Model one example using a think-aloud
- Pause for guided practice before independent work

Clarity first. Independence follows.

Look-fors in the classroom

You'll know explicit instruction is working when:

Students start tasks with confidence

Fewer directions need to be repeated

Students can explain the process, not just the answer

When learning is clear, effort goes toward thinking, not guessing.



Student-Facing Learning Support Template

(Aligned to HLP 11 | Explicit Instruction & Gradual Release)

Today’s Learning Goal

I am learning to:

This is important because:

First: I Watch and Listen

What did my teacher show or explain?

Next: We Practice Together

What helped me understand:

- ☐ Seeing an example
- ☐ Talking it through
- ☐ Practicing with support

One step I practiced:

Now: I Try It On My Own

- ☐ I know the steps
- ☐ I can explain my thinking
- ☐ I can ask for help if I need it

After Learning

One thing I can do independently now:

One step I want to keep practicing: