

Explicit Instruction Observation Sheet

Design of Lesson	Evidence
Big Idea	
What do you want students to learn by the end of the	
lesson?	
Look-fors:	
 Today we will learn 	
• By the end of literacy we will know how to	
 After a hook, teacher says, "What do you 	
think we are learning today?"	
 Why are we learning this? 	
Conspicuous Strategies	
Explicit teaching of helpful strategies available to	
students that will benefit their learning.	
Look-fors:	
• When I am reading a book or story, I visualize	
what I am reading about.	
• To organize my thoughts, I like to create a	
web that helps me	
 Today I will teach you a strategy to use 	
when	
Strategic Integration	
Is the student applying what has been learned and	
knows and understands into new information?	
Look-fors:	
 You know 5 consonant sounds and the short 	
/a/ sound. Today we will make words from	
those.	
 Yesterday you learned that we pause after a 	
comma. Today we are going to read a	
passage that contains commas. I am going to	
listen to you read this passage	
• You have been working on c-v-c words today.	
We are going to put 2 c-v-c words together to	
make with 2 syllables.	
Mediated Scaffolding	
Provided to students in the form of steps, tasks,	
materials, and personal support during initial learning	
that reduces task complexity.	
Look-fors:	
• I will show you how to	
• First, we will	
• Watch as I do	
 Our first step will be 	
 I will say, then you say 	
 Follow me as I 	
Primed Background Knowledge	
Learning new skills and knowledge depends on a) the	
knowledge the learner brings to the task, b) the	
accuracy of that information, and c) the degree to	
which the learner can access and use that information.	
Look-fors:	
• K-W-L charts	
 Showing 2-minute videos Discussing provious experiences 	
 Discussing previous experiences 	



 What does this remind you of? 	
 Have you ever seen? 	
 What do you know about this? 	
o Realia	
Judicious Review	
Intentional review is essential to ensure that students	
maintain conceptual and procedural "grasp" of	
important skills and knowledge (big ideas).	
Information reviewed is useful and essential.	
Additionally, review should be distributed, cumulative,	
and varied. Review that is distributed over time, as	
opposed to massed in one learning event, contributes	
to long-term retention and problem solving.	
Look-fors:	
 Beginning a unit by asking students a 	
question about a previous unit	
 Exit tickets of previously taught 	
information	
• Asking for understanding of a previously	
learned big idea	
 Not, teaching and moving on 	
Delivery of Lesson	Evidence
Frequent Student Responses:	
Teachers use engagement strategies that require	
student involvement.	
Look-fors:	
 Personal Response Boards 	
 Teach/Okay 	
 Thumbs up 	
Appropriate pacing:	
Influenced by variables such as, how difficult a task is,	
relative newness of the task, and the individual	
student differences within the class.	
Look-fors:	
• Brisk pace	
 Multiple repetitions 	
Students are engaged in the instructional activity	
Adequate Processing Time:	
"Think time." Time to pause and think should vary	
based on the difficulty of the task relative to the	
students.	
Look-fors.	
• Students think time varies depending on task.	
Low level questioning—such as facts—less time to	
process	
Monitor Responses	
Watching and listening to student responses provides	
the teacher with key instructional information.	
Adjustments may be made <i>during</i> instruction. Teachers	
should be constantly scanning the classroom as	
students respond in any mode.	
Look-fors:	
• Teacher is listening to student responses as we	
"Shoulder Partner"	
Toochar is moving and getting poor students	
• Teacher is moving and getting near students	
for a think-pair-share	



Teachers move to students who look confused
Provide Feedback:
Should be instructional and not accommodating.
Look-fors:
 Feedback should be specific—
 I like that you were careful to start that
sentence with an uppercase letter.
✓ I would make sure to
✓ Your first answer has more
detail than your second, what
did you do differently?
Feedback doesn't become so involved that it
interferes with the timing of the lesson.