

# About Effective Teaching

Good to Great Schools Australia provides schools and teaching teams with a range of products and support to enable them to deliver Effective Teaching that significantly lifts student achievement. We offer all schools and teaching professionals free use of our range of evidence-based curriculum with professional learning modules and school improvement tools.

Schools are focused on teachers providing effective teaching in every classroom, every day, to all students.

Effective teaching is the active interchange and supportive relationship between the teacher and every one of their students. It begins with the premise that students can learn, and the teacher is responsible for ensuring they are learning.

The implicit contract is that students pay attention, and the teacher provides information and ensures that students are understanding.



Effective teaching responds to the complexities of individual learners in each classroom. Teaching is effective when:

- learning is optimised for all students of every linguistic, cultural, religious or socioeconomic background
- it can be delivered in any type of school and classroom context and produce consistent results for all student cohorts

## Features of a lesson

### Lesson design

Effective Teaching includes specific instructional design features, including:

- Based on the science of reading.
- Scaffolds to zone of proximal development.
- Adheres to cognitive load theory.
- Surface, deep and transfer knowledge.
- Automaticity to optimise mastery and learning growth.
- Spaced practice and sequenced lessons.
- Clear instructional language.
- Model, lead, test instruction approach.
- Mastery learning.
- Clear learning objectives visible to learners.
- Structured lesson format from opening to closure.
- Progress tracked through data to inform teaching.

Lesson features include students using individual whiteboards and 'pair sharing' with fellow students so teachers can check for understanding and ensure the class has mastered concepts.

### Lesson delivery

- **Engagement** – actively engages students in learning to maximise learning time.
- **Embedding behaviour routines** – so students remain focused on learning.
- **Pedagogy built into lesson structure.**
- **Modelling** - teaching using think-alouds to reveal to students the strategic thinking required to solve a problem.
- **Demonstrating** – teaching using physical objects to clarify the content and to support kinaesthetic learning.
- **Continually checking for understanding** – to ensure students have learned the content being taught and are acquiring mastery of concepts and skills.

## The evidence

The evidence base for Direct Instruction is covered in the synthesis of meta-analyses in John Hattie's Visible Learning. It shows that Direct Instruction is an effective teaching method with an effect size of 0.59.

Direct Instruction is non-categorical, so is an effective pedagogy for the diverse range of students and schools. It works as well for Aboriginal students in remote communities, as it does for middle class students in mainstream schools.

# Areas of an Effective Teaching lesson

Areas of an Effective Teaching lesson are:  
Prepare, Present, Engage and Assess



Area	Key features	Benefits to teacher	Impact on students
Prepare	Set up classroom for teaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>knows the content so can deliver the lesson seamlessly at the required pace</li> <li>can respond to student needs as they arise and address students who are not following directions or paying attention</li> <li>has less distractions and inappropriate behaviours so more time on teaching</li> <li>can complete all parts of the lesson in the standard time.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Higher engagement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>are attending school more often</li> <li>are participating fully in lessons</li> <li>are focussing on their learning</li> <li>are efficiently managing their time</li> <li>are increasingly able to work independently.</li> </ul>
	Set up classroom for learning		
	Teach for full lesson		
	Complete lesson in the standard time		
Present	Teach fluently and clearly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>spending less time on correcting student misunderstandings and more time on teaching.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Appropriate behaviour</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>are following the rules and not interrupting</li> <li>have quick and safe access to resources</li> <li>have reduced behaviour issues.</li> </ul> <p><b>Motivated to learn</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>are experiencing success each day</li> <li>have increasing confidence in their learning abilities</li> <li>are seeing themselves as successful learners</li> <li>have confidence in sitting tests and are prepared for tests</li> <li>are setting higher goals and succeeding.</li> </ul>
	Teach to mastery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>can immediately resolve errors or misconceptions.</li> </ul>	
	Track responses to check understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>has vital information on their students' performance</li> <li>can have instructional conversations on how to continually improve to respond to students' needs.</li> </ul>	
	Use signals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>has maximum student engagement</li> <li>can secure an immediate and complete picture of where students are or are not firm</li> <li>can continuously evaluate if students are learning and respond accordingly.</li> </ul>	
	Use individual turns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>can check if specific students are mastering the material knows how many students are mastering the lesson.</li> </ul>	
	Use correction posture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>can respond to individual student needs.</li> </ul>	
	Address group problems and model student responses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>can ensure all students needs are getting met by their teaching.</li> </ul>	

Area	Key features	Benefits to teacher	Impact on students
Engage	Engage students in learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>high satisfaction as they can see that their teaching is effective</li> <li>joy in teaching as students are enjoying their interactions.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Practising skills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>do not repeat or reinforce errors</li> <li>can practise unfamiliar words and concepts before they read them chorally</li> <li>can connect oral words with written words</li> <li>have increasing fluency, vocabulary, comprehension and language skills</li> </ul> <p><b>Practising skills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>have deeper connections with concepts they are studying</li> <li>can remember rules and definitions</li> <li>are firm in their understanding</li> <li>have the correct answer achieve mastery so progress to the next lesson.</li> </ul> <p><b>Consolidating learning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>are storing and accessing information in long-term memory</li> <li>are progressing at the optimum rate</li> <li>are at or above year level</li> <li>meet or exceed the minimum standards.</li> </ul>
	Embed routines and behaviour standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>does not have to keep repeating directions and disciplining students so can teach uninterrupted</li> <li>has a calm, organised and positive learning environment.</li> </ul>	
	Provide positive praise and affirmations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>has positive teacher-student relationships and classroom culture</li> </ul>	
	Deliver positive motivation techniques	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>can see how their classroom success is contributing to school success</li> <li>has reinforced a positive classroom and school culture.</li> </ul>	
Assess	Administer independent work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>have another opportunity to practice what they just learned</li> <li>have extended and reinforced skills of what was already taught</li> <li>have opportunities to show what they know</li> <li>know that the teacher values their work</li> <li>have increased confidence in their learning abilities.</li> </ul>	
	Administer program assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>can determine if students have mastered the previous content or if they need to reinforce, reteach and retest specific content</li> <li>has feedback about the effectiveness of their teaching so can continually improve their teaching to students' needs.</li> </ul>	
	Remediate and retest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>can be satisfied that all students are learning the content.</li> </ul>	
	Administer standardised test preparations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>are able to use student data to improve their teaching and meet student needs.</li> </ul>	

### For more information

If you are interested in finding out more about our products, accessing our products or working with us, go to [www.goodtogreatschools.org.au](http://www.goodtogreatschools.org.au)

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