

# About Explicit Direct Instruction

**Good to Great Schools Australia delivers Explicit Direct Instruction (EDI), which uses well-crafted, well taught lessons to assist teachers to deliver effective instruction that significantly lifts student achievement.**



The approach is based on the premise that all children can learn and teachers can significantly improve achievement for all learners by implementing effective well crafted lessons. EDI gives teachers step-by-step strategies to deliver effective lessons that maximise student learning across all areas of the Australian Curriculum in primary and secondary schools.

The model was developed by John Hollingsworth and Dr Silvia Ybarra from DataWORKS and is based on educational theory, brain research, data analysis and direct instruction. Any students who are struggling to reach mastery receive small group or individual tuition while others complete independent practice.

## Key lesson design components

EDI includes specific lesson design components including:

- Learning objective.
- Activate prior knowledge.
- Concept development.
- Skill development.
- Lesson relevance.
- Guided practice.
- Lesson closure.
- Independent practice.

Visible features of a lesson include students using individual whiteboards and 'pair sharing' with a fellow student so teachers can check for understanding and ensure the class have mastered concepts.

## Key lesson delivery strategies

- **Checking for understanding** - continually verifying that students are learning while they are being taught
- **Explaining** - teaching by telling
- **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

## What schools receive

Good to Great Schools Australia provides a comprehensive support program to schools implementing Explicit Direct Instruction including:

- Up to five days annual training.
- On-site demonstration lessons.
- Ready to teach EDI literacy lessons and student workbooks (Foundation to Year 6).
- EDI coaches training for identified staff.
- Coaching for leadership development.
- Coaching for classroom staff.
- Instructional leadership modules.
- Access to EDI resources and materials.

## The evidence

DataWORKS, disaggregated more than four million state-level student test results, collected and analysed more than two million student assignments, observed 45,000 teachers and surveyed more than 100,000 educational stakeholders. The result of this research was the development of the unique collection of research-based teaching strategies called Explicit Direct Instruction.

Thousands of teachers and hundreds of schools in several US states, Australia and other countries have now been trained in this methodology.

# Managing behaviour

**The successful implementation of Explicit Direct Instruction requires effective behaviour management. The program that Good to Great Schools Australia supports is based on Positive Behaviour Interventions and Support (PBIS).**



This ensures the school is fully supported to integrate behaviour management so that instruction is effective and there is a positive school culture that supports all students to achieve social, emotional, and academic success.

This preventative approach focuses on actively teaching, expecting and acknowledging appropriate behaviour in the classroom.

## Key features

- Sets clear rules and systematically teaches school-wide behavioural expectations
- Predictable, multi-tiered consequences (rewards, corrections and sanctions) that are understood by all students, teachers and parents
- Accurate information about student behaviour so teachers can design supports
- Regular reporting on behaviour

## Program benefits

- Reduces classroom disruptions so the focus stays on learning
- Enables more intensive support for students exhibiting problem behaviour
- Ensures students who need it can have appropriate, individualised consequence and reteaching plans
- Provides learning continuity for students where teacher turnover is high

## Suitability in Australian schools

PBIS was developed over twenty years ago, and is now internationally recognised and used in over 13,000 schools across Australia, the United States, New Zealand and Canada. Studies show that when schools implement the program with fidelity, they can achieve up to a 50 per cent reduction in discipline referrals, increased time for teaching, improved school climate and higher teacher and student satisfaction\*.

## What schools receive

- Facilitation to customise behaviour management to school and build the school-wide behaviour management plan and lesson plans
- Assistance to set up the school-based behaviour management team that includes the principal, teachers and assistants, student liaison and family representatives
- Training for behaviour management team members in key practices, goal setting and ongoing monitoring
- Training for teachers and teaching assistants in applying behaviour management in the classroom and coaching on how to respond to specific behavioural issues and individual behaviour management plans
- Ongoing monitoring of behaviour data and suggested interventions
- Information and support to parents on how they can align behaviour management to their parenting approaches to enhance cohesion between home and school life

\* Skiba, R. & Sprague, J. (September, 2008). Safety Without Suspension. Educational Leadership, 38-43.

## For more information

If you are interested in leading in our schools or our current career opportunities, go to [www.goodtogreatschools.org.au](http://www.goodtogreatschools.org.au)

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