



CLASSROOM WALKTHROUGHS

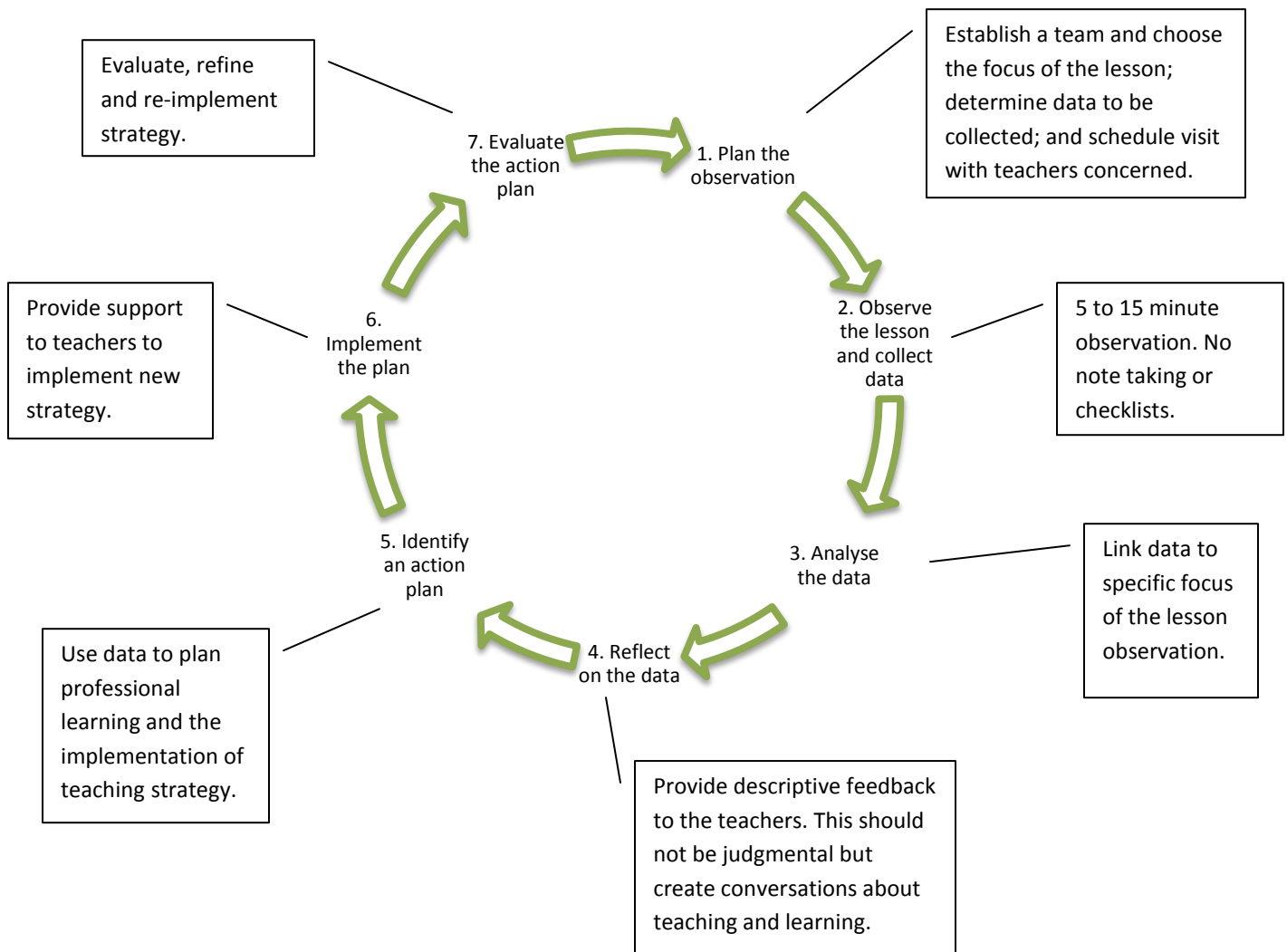


Classroom Walkthroughs are brief, focused and frequent visits to classrooms for the purpose of observing teaching and learning. They are being used increasingly more by principals to create a snapshot of what is happening in classrooms across the school and to provide feedback to teachers and promote conversations about teaching and learning.

Benefits to School Leadership

- Provides the principal with the opportunity to connect with teachers and offer guidance and support
- The principal is seen as the lead learner in the school and an active facilitator
- The principal will become familiar with school's curricular and instructional practices
- Review implementation of cross-curricular objectives
- Collected data can be used to direct professional learning and school planning
- Able to determine the effectiveness of current professional development within the school and the extent to which development initiatives are making it into the classroom
- Reinforce the importance of continual professional learning
- Quality teaching practices are recognised and shared
- The principal is able to gauge the school climate and influence the team atmosphere

Classroom Walkthrough Process



What to look for

- Instructional strategies – are teachers using research-based teaching strategies?
- Student groupings – are student groupings (large, small groups, pairs, individuals) appropriate to the learning?
- ICT – is technology being used effectively to promote student learning?
- Learning goals – do students have a clear understanding of the learning goals?
- Student engagement – is learning challenging and motivating
- Student achievement – what strategies are being used to differentiate learning and raise student achievement?
- The Learning environment – is it safe and welcoming? Is there information around the room about what has been taught or what may be taught in the future?

Positive Outcomes

- Teachers sharing best practice
- Increased principal awareness of what is happening in classrooms
- Increased principal awareness of curricula gaps
- Increased principal awareness of inconsistencies
- Increased principal awareness of professional development needs
- Improvement in the quality of student work
- Improvement in quality of conversations about instruction
- Development of a common language around instruction



more talk about good practice

References

Nancy Protheroe: *Using Classroom Walkthroughs to Improve Instruction*

Teachscape: *Classroom Walkthrough Research Base*

Howard Pitler: *Classroom Walkthroughs: Learning to see the Tress and the Forest*

Donald Kachur: *Classroom Walk-Throughs*

Frances Bessellieu: *Providing Instructional Leadership Through Classroom Walk-Throughs*