

Six Steps of Explicit Strategy Instruction

Modeling doesn't stop after you've introduced a strategy. Throughout this teaching process, lend kids your strategic knowledge through active modeling and by verbalizing your thinking as you apply the strategy. According to research, it takes students 4-10 weeks of explicit instruction before they internalize a reading strategy.

1. Teacher explains *what* the strategy consists of.
2. Teacher explains *why* this strategy is important.
3. Teacher explains *when* to use the strategy in actual reading (e.g., what to notice in a text that tips off the reader that this particular strategy should be used).
4. Teacher *models how* to perform the strategy in an actual context (e.g. by doing a think-aloud using a real text) while students observe.
5. Teacher *guides learner practice*. Teachers and students work through several increasingly challenging examples of the strategy together using authentic texts. Teacher gradually releases responsibility to the students, allowing them to do what they can on their own. The teacher intervenes only when support is needed.
6. Students *independently use* the strategy as they pursue their own reading and projects.

-from *Improving Comprehension with Think-aloud Strategies* by Jeffrey D. Wilhelm, pp. 13-14.