



Clear Instructions

by Chip and Dan Heath, Switch.

“Children seemed armed with clear instructions to complete the task in hand.”

What I Wanted to Improve

Everything is going well but listening skills are not as good this year as the children last year. Pupils are tuning out and sometimes my instructions are a little bit wordy.

What Would Success Look Like?

1. Significant decrease in the number of pupils asking what the task is.
2. Less instances of copying as they will know what to do.
3. More work being done. More productivity in the lesson.

How Did I Approach It?

- Investing more time and effort on planning whole class teaching and ensuring concise, snappy teaching points and instructions.
- Checking children understand my instructions through the use of Talk Partners
- Always providing scaffolds for children who find following instructions difficult.

My Context

Primary School,
North Yorkshire

Ofsted Rating **2**

Free School Meals **10.4%**
(National Average 24.9%)

Pupils **22**

Ages **3-11**

Gender **Mixed**

School Type

Foundation School

Resources and Cost Required

More time taken to plan in lots of detail, but less time needed to re-explain tasks.

Results and Conclusions

Success criteria	What changed?	Why?
<p>Significant decrease in the number of pupils asking what the task is.</p> <p>Less instances of copying as they will know what to do.</p> <p>More work being done. More productivity in the lesson.</p>	<p>Fewer children asked what the task in hand was. Those that did seemed to know already what to do and were probably asking out of routine or security.</p> <p>Few instances of copying if any.</p> <p>Increase in writing output.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children seemed armed with clear instructions and to complete the task in hand. • Children seemed armed with clear instructions and to complete the task in hand without the need for checking against peers. • Children had more time to work in the lesson. Less time wasted clarifying misconceptions.

Overall Rating and Recommendation



Would recommend. Worked to help the EAL pupils in my class and helped the others too.

Not sure how well it could transition to independence and would take a while. Need to tie it to the subject/verb so they can grasp the grammatical reason.