

USE OF EMBEDDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN EARLY CHILDHOOD CLASSROOMS



*Kansas Multi-Tier System
of
Supports and Alignment*



LEARNING TARGET

Based on child's abilities, priority skills, preferences or support needs

ACTIVITY, ROUTINE, OR TRANSITION

Use daily schedule to select activities, learning centers, or classroom routines in which instruction can be embedded

High-Quality Teaching & Embedded Instruction

Embedded instruction involves multiple, brief teaching interactions between a teacher and child during everyday classroom activities. By identifying specific instructional targets, selecting classroom activities best suited for embedded learning opportunities, and using planned and intentional instructional strategies, teachers can provide multiple opportunities for skill practice.

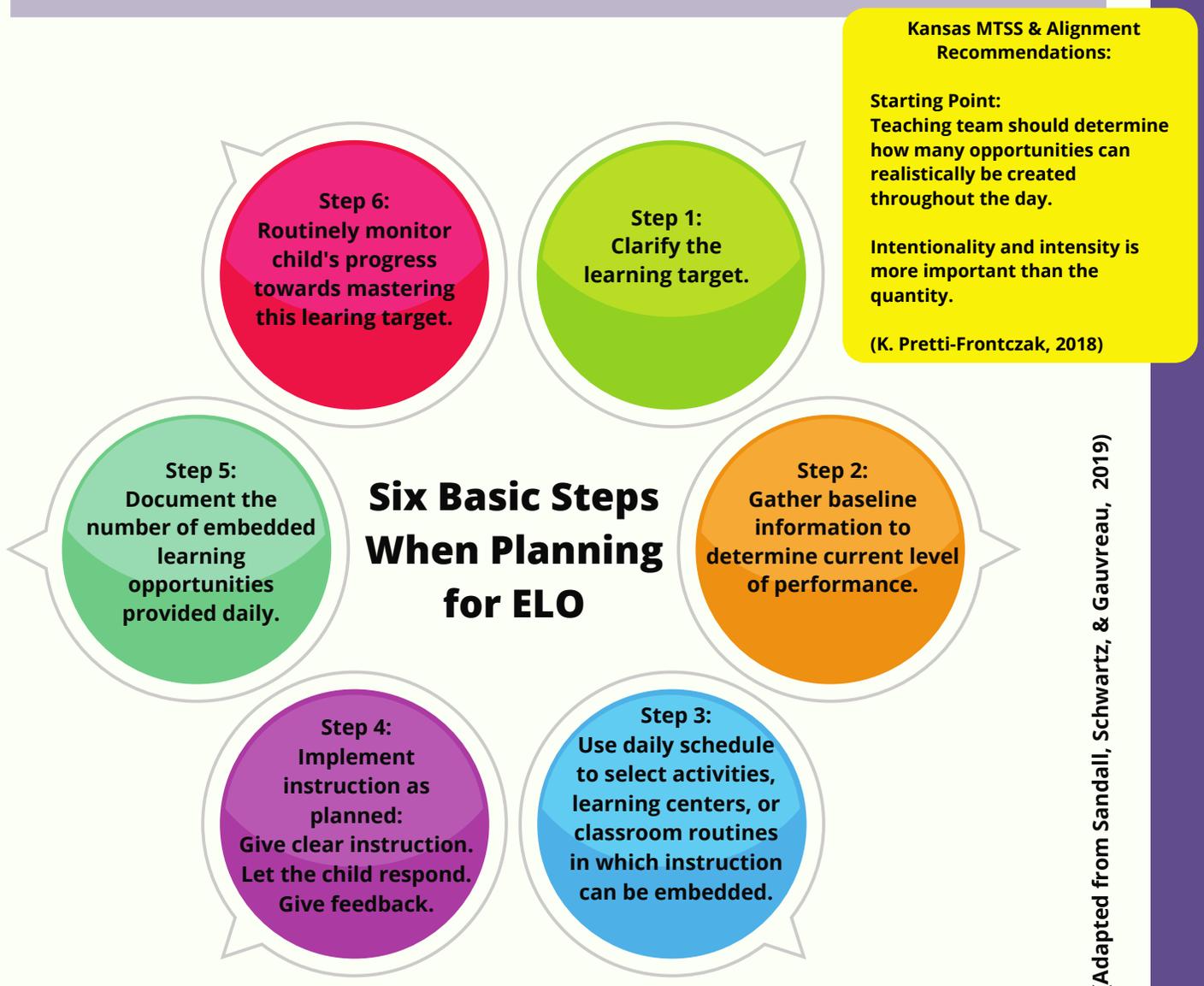
Studies have demonstrated its acceptance by early childhood teachers and feasibility for use in the preschool classroom. Research to date has shown that embedded instruction:

- Helps children learn new skills
- Increases child engagement, participation, and independence
- Promotes generalization and maintenance of learned skills

(Sandall, Schwartz, and Gauvreau, 2019)



Using embedded learning opportunities sounds like a natural thing to do. However, teachers must intentionally plan for how this process will be structured within their classroom on a daily basis. The following graphic outlines the six basic steps when planning to embed learning opportunities.



Evaluate Using Data-Based Decision Making (DBDM)

LOOK - Am I doing it?

Collect data on: How many embedded learning opportunities did you provide daily? Analyze with your collaborative team the number of ELO you were each able to document.

THINK - Is it working?

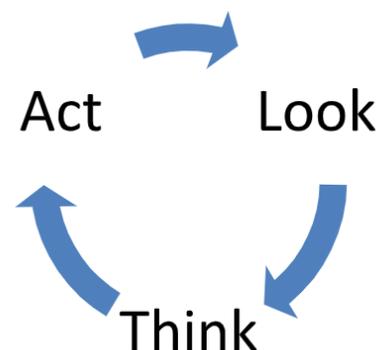
Collect data on: Using mastery monitoring, is the child making progress towards mastering the targeted skill? Collectively discuss the data gathered.

ACT - Do I need to make changes?

Use both sources of information gathered above to determine if your ELO plan is meeting the needs of the student. Select a new strategy/method for embedded instruction, if needed. Re-collect mastery monitoring data. Discuss results with your collaborative team.

REMINDER:

The Data-Based Decision Making process is an ongoing process and designed for staff to regularly monitor their impact on student learning.



For teachers to be able to regularly evaluate their impact in the classroom and adjust their teaching methodology in response to what they see, the classroom needs to be made visible. The concept of seeing clearly what teachers are teaching and what students are learning is known as **Visible Learning**.

With your collaborative team discuss the following questions and reflect on how you and/or your team can increase impact based on these questions related to identifying specific instructional learning targets and structuring for Embedded Learning Opportunities.

Do I:

**Rank yourself
5 being the highest**

know that my teaching has an impact on student learning?

1 2 3 4 5

adapt my teaching when students do not meet their learning goals?

1 2 3 4 5

understand that students' environment has great influence on their learning?

1 2 3 4 5

take into account the strengths and weaknesses of my students when structuring my teaching?

1 2 3 4 5

Questions adapted from 10 Mindframes for Visible Learning: Teaching for Success.



**Resources for
Learning**
(resources are linked)

Video: Embedded Instruction Practices by the Puckett Institute

Video: Overview of Embedded Learning Opportunities by Kristie Pretti-Frontczak

Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center Article: **Embedded Instruction Practices (2017)**

Brooks Publishing Article: 7 Steps to Seamlessly Embedding Learning Opportunities in Classroom Activities

SOURCES

Hattie, J., & Zierer, K. (2018) *10 mindframes for visible learning: teaching for success*. London: New York, NY: Routledge.

Sandall, S., Schwartz, I., Joseph, G., & Gauvreau, A. (2019) *Building Blocks for Teaching Preschoolers with Special Needs*. Baltimore, MD: Brookes Publishing.