

Enhancing Students' Reasoning Through Teacher Questioning (F - Y6)

**Faculty of Education and Arts
NSW School of Education**

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Overview

1.0

- Positioning explicit teaching within this presentation

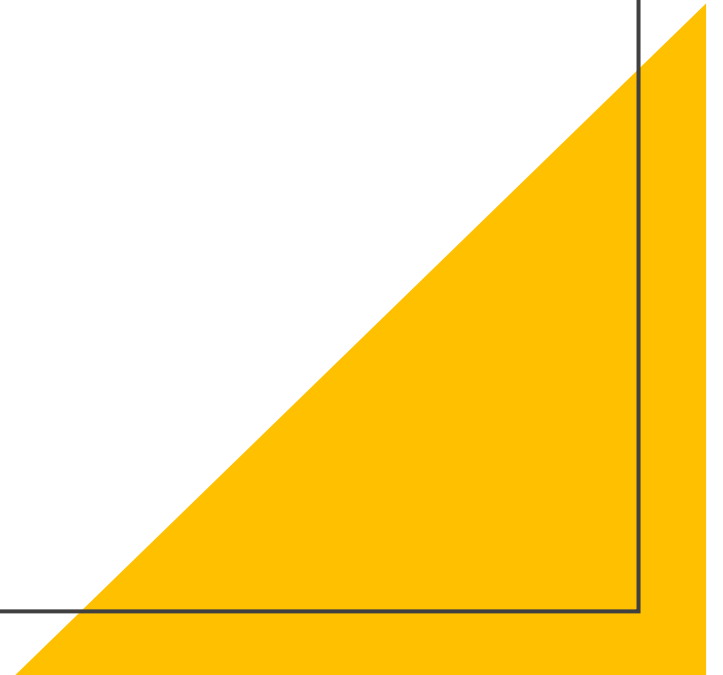
2.0

- Mathematical reasoning

3.0

- Teacher questioning

Is this presentation
about explicit
teaching?



How a more explicit teaching style helped this school defy NAPLAN struggles elsewhere

By national education and parenting reporter Conor Duffy and the Specialist Reporting Team's Evan Young
Posted Thu 24 Aug 2023 at 4:59am



Nasya Hassan is a teacher at Sydney Adventist School, where NAPLAN results have seen a big turnaround. (ABC News: Marcus Stimson)

This was published 6 months ago

Education boss calls for doubling down on explicit teaching in schools



Lucy Carroll

October 23, 2023 – 5:00am

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The head of the NSW public education system has called on schools to double down on the use of explicit instruction – a teaching method that gives students step-by-step and clear instructions – in a bid to boost results and close the stark achievement gap.

How an explicit teaching approach optimises learning

Breaking down and fully explaining content helps students transfer information to memory

Providing opportunities for review and practise helps students retain and recall what they learn

Organising and sequencing content around a specific objective deepens student understanding

Knowledge-building, guidance and scaffolding supports students with additional limitations in prior knowledge, memory and information processing

Structure and guidance help novices develop mastery over their learning

A strong foundation of knowledge and skills provides students with mental models for extending and applying their learning with greater independence

Victorian Teaching and Learning Model 2.0

Elements of learning			
<p>Attention, focus and regulation</p> <p>Refers to learning requiring students' attention and involving active engagement in a supportive and responsive learning-focused environment.</p>	<p>Knowledge and memory</p> <p>Refers to students processing new information in their working memory, where they connect it with existing knowledge in long-term memory, building mental models that integrate and organise knowledge.</p>	<p>Retention and recall</p> <p>Refers to working memory being able to hold a small amount of information at once (cognitive load). If overloaded, new knowledge won't be effectively stored in long-term memory.</p>	<p>Mastery and application</p> <p>Refers to consistent practice and retrieval, allowing students to develop and demonstrate mastery by retaining knowledge and understanding how to apply it effectively.</p>

Elements of teaching	
<p>Planning</p> <p>Refers to the collaborative development of whole school teaching and learning programs that break down and sequence the knowledge to be taught and assessed. It also refers to the planning required to implement the curriculum into the classroom and to the school-wide enactment of a multi-tiered system of supports.</p>	
<p>Enabling learning</p> <p>Refers to the positive relationships, cultural responsiveness, classroom expectations and management techniques that teachers establish and use to foster student self-regulation and self-efficacy, and to create a learning-focused environment where the development and application of knowledge drives curiosity and creativity.</p>	
<p>Explicit teaching</p> <p>Refers to the evidence-based practices that manage the cognitive load of students, including activating prior knowledge, clearly stating learning objectives, providing explicit explanations of new knowledge, scaffolding learning and modelling practice, and using formative assessment and feedback to monitor progress towards mastery.</p>	
<p>Supported application</p> <p>Refers to the practices that maximise the consolidation and application of learning, including revisiting and reviewing knowledge, varying and spacing practice, organising knowledge and extending and challenging students as they move to mastery of new factual, conceptual and procedural knowledge.</p>	

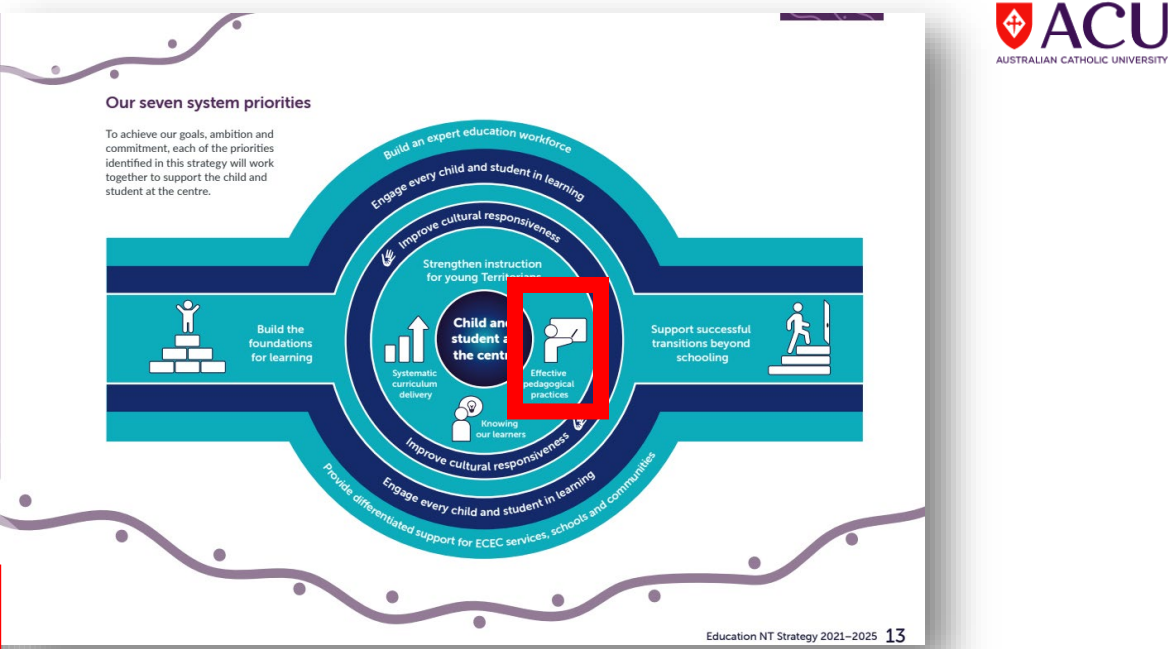
* Knowledge includes factual, conceptual and procedural knowledge. See AERO (2023), <https://www.edresearch.edu.au/resources/how-students-learn-best>, p.5

Victorian State Government, 2023

Dimensions		
Intellectual Quality Intellectual Quality refers to pedagogy focused on deep understanding of important, substantive concepts, skills and ideas. Such pedagogy treats knowledge as requiring active construction and engages students in higher-order thinking and communicating about what they are learning.	Quality Learning Environment Quality Learning Environment refers to pedagogy that creates classrooms where students and teachers work productively and are clearly focused on learning. Such pedagogy sets high expectations and develops positive relationships among teachers and students.	Significance Significance refers to pedagogy that helps make learning meaningful to students. Such pedagogy draws clear connections with students' prior knowledge and identities, with contexts outside of the classroom, and multiple ways of knowing or cultural perspectives.

Deep Knowledge Knowledge is deep when it concerns the central ideas or concepts of a topic, subject or learning area and when the knowledge is judged to be crucial to the topic, subject or learning area.	Explicit Quality Criteria High explicit quality criteria is identified by frequent, detailed and specific statements about the quality of work required of students.	Background Knowledge High background knowledge is evident when lessons provide students with opportunities (or they take opportunities) to make connections between their knowledge and experience and the substance of the lesson.
Deep Understanding Deep understanding is evident when students demonstrate their grasp of central ideas and concepts.	Engagement High engagement is identified by on-task behaviours that signal a serious investment in class work.	Cultural Knowledge Cultural knowledge is high when there is an understanding, valuing and acceptance of the traditions, beliefs, skills, knowledge, languages, practices and protocols of diverse social groups.
Problematic Knowledge Knowledge is treated as problematic when it involves an understanding of knowledge not as a fixed body of information, but rather as socially constructed, and hence subject to political, social and cultural influences and implications.	High expectations Expectations are high when teachers (or students) communicate the expectation that all members of the class can learn important knowledge and skills that are challenging for them.	Knowledge Integration High knowledge integration is identifiable when meaningful connections are made between different topics and/or between different subjects.
Higher-Order Thinking Higher-order thinking requires students to manipulate information and ideas in ways that transform their meaning and implications.	Social Support Classrooms high in social support for student learning encourage all students to try hard and risk initial failure in a climate of mutual respect.	Inclusivity High inclusivity is evident when all students, from all cultural or social backgrounds, participate in the public work of the class and when their contributions are taken seriously and valued.
Metalinguage Lessons high in metalinguage have high levels of talk about language and how texts work.	Students' Self-Regulation High student self-regulation is evident when the lesson proceeds without interruption and when students demonstrate autonomy and initiative in relation to their own behaviour in ways that allow the class to get on with learning.	Connectedness High connectedness is evident when learning has value and meaning beyond the classroom and school.
Substantive Communication Classes high in substantive communication have sustained interaction, communication focused on the substance of the lessons and reciprocal interaction.	Student Direction Classrooms with high student direction see students exercising control over one or more of the following aspects of a lesson: choice of activities, time spent on activities, pace of the lesson or criteria by which they will be assessed.	Narrative Use of narrative is high when the stories written, told, read, viewed or listened to help illustrate or bring to life the knowledge that students are addressing in the classroom.

NSW Department of Education, 2024



NT Government, Education Strategy, 2021



TAS Government, 2020

Focus areas	Useful links
Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> document, monitor and review attendance data^a, anecdotal evidence and assessment data, including learning across the phases of the <i>Continua of learning and development</i>, to determine focus areas for the sustained improvement of children's' learning, development and wellbeing use a range of data together with the National Quality Standard (NQS) to inform quality improvement strategies for the kindergarten program and school performance planning record and retain^a data and documentation^a
Curriculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> enact the five learning and development areas of the <i>Queensland kindergarten learning guideline 2024</i> (QKLG) through planned and spontaneous child-centred experiences
Documenting, assessing and planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> use an ongoing, strengths-based[™] planning process that includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> gathering evidence and documenting learning analysing and evaluating evidence across all learning and development areas using the <i>Continua of learning and development</i> planning responsively for and from learning implementing intentional learning experiences critically reflecting[™] on teaching and learning develop <i>transition statements</i> at the end of the year by collaborating with families, and reflecting on a range of documentation and evidence across the
Pedagogy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> use <i>A whole school approach to pedagogy</i> employ a range and balance of age-appropriate, intentional and effective pedagogies outlined in the QKLG, including play-based and inquiry learning explore and enhance digital learning in teaching and learning
Inclusion and diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> use the QKLG to support inclusive and equitable access, participation and engagement in kindergarten
Health and wellbeing education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> use the QKLG to build respectful and reciprocal relationships and support children's wellbeing
Managing risks in school curriculum activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide risk assessment documentation, in accordance with the <i>SDK delivery procedure</i> and <i>Managing risks in school curriculum activities procedure</i>

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QLD Government, Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Framework, 2024

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ACT Government, How we teach in ACT public schools, n.d.

Our schools are diverse, and our teachers are empowered learning professionals who use a variety of strategies to meet the individual needs of all students. We use student data to identify what each student needs, and we adjust our learning and teaching strategies accordingly.

In ACT public schools, we use the Gradual Release of Responsibility Model. This is a teaching strategy where the responsibility gradually shifts from the teacher to the student. The teacher models skills and concepts and transfers ownership of learning to the student to show their independence and understanding.

Teachers use a range of effective teaching and learning practices, allowing them to select the most suitable learning experiences. For example, strategies known as modelling, sharing and guiding are commonly used to teach students. Depending on what students need, a teacher might use modelling, where the teacher takes a higher degree of control to demonstrate new learning. If students are ready, a teacher will use guiding to create opportunities for students to learn new skills or concepts with support.

The Gradual Release of Responsibility Through the Use of Teaching and Learning Practices			
Modelling	Sharing	Guiding	Applying
The teacher demonstrates by thinking aloud the process used.	The teacher provides the direction and invites the students to contribute.	The teacher scaffolds, helps and provides support and corrective feedback.	The teacher offers support and encouragement as necessary.
Students participate by actively attending to the demonstrations.	Students contribute ideas and information. Decision-making is negotiated between teacher and student.	Students do the work with help from the teacher or other sources at predetermined points.	Students work independently. They are in control of the ideas and the information.

First Steps. *Linking Assessment, Teaching and Learning*. Department of Education WA, 2013.

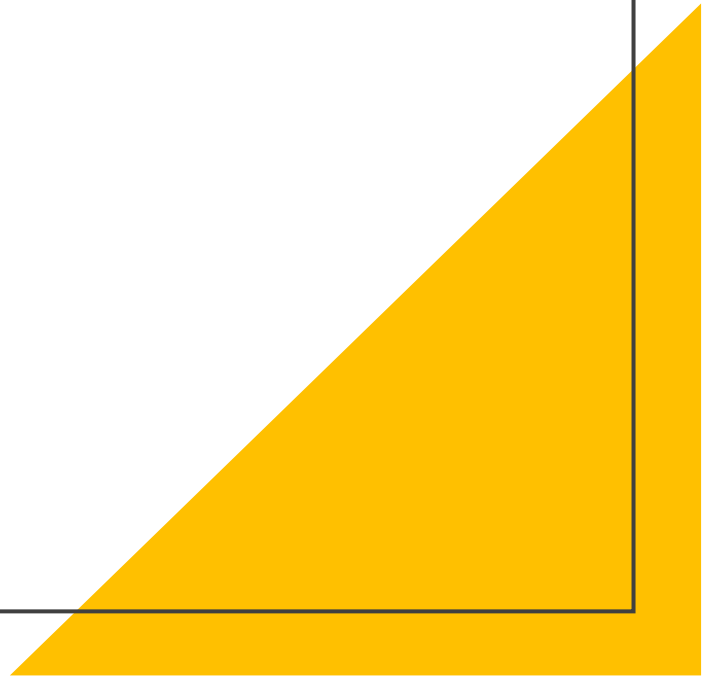
- Explicit instruction:** This is a clear and direct way of teaching students new skills or concepts. The teacher breaks down the material into small steps and provides clear explanations and examples.
- Differentiation:** This is the practice of adjusting our learning and teaching strategies to meet the individual needs of each student. It might involve adjusting the pace or instruction, the level of difficulty, or the type of learning experience.
- Inquiry-based learning:** This is an active learning approach that encourages students to ask questions, think critically, and solve problems. Combining explicit and inquiry-based approaches gives students the foundational knowledge, concepts, and problem-solving strategies to explore and discover through their learning.
- Personalised learning:** This is a process of tailoring the learning experience to each student's unique needs. This might involve providing additional support, using different learning materials, or offering more flexibility.

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WA Government, Teaching for Impact, 2024

What do we know about
students' mathematical
reasoning?



Five ways to guide our thinking...

1

Students progressing in trajectories and in turn displaying mathematical thinking

(Bobis et al., 2005; Clements & Sarama, 2014; DiSessa, 2000; Empson, 2011; Fraivillig et al., 1999; Siemon et al., 2017; Simon & Tzur, 2004; Wilson et al., 2013).

2

Students engaging in problem solving tasks

(Boaler, 1998; Cheeseman, 2008; Fennema et al., 1998; Franke & Carey, 1997; Freiman, 2018; Mueller et al., 2014; Schoenfeld, 1987, 1988; van Bommel & Palmer, 2018; Wood et al., 2006).

3

Students engaging with strategies that support sense making

(Ball, 1993; Fennema et al., 1998; Ginsburg & Seo, 1999; Papandreou & Tsiouli, 2020; Steinberg et al., 2004; Wood et al., 2006).

4

Students displaying reasoning and justifying during mathematical learning experiences

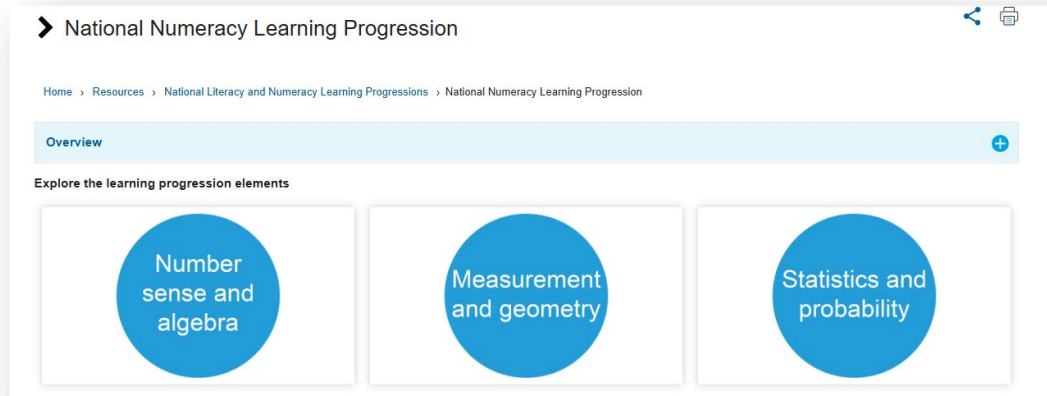
(Anthony et al., 2015; Carpenter et al., 2003; Diezmann et al., 2001; Henningsen & Stein, 1997; Herbert et al., 2015; Hunter & Anthony, 2011; Melhuish et al., 2020; Papic et al., 2009; Vale et al., 2017; Warren et al., 2013; Watters & English, 1995; Wood & McNeal, 2003).

5

Students making connections to known mathematical ideas and transferring their thinking

(Carpenter et al., 1990; Clements & Sarama, 2007; Fraivillig et al., 1999; Kinnear et al., 2018; Mulligan et al., 2006; Papic et al., 2011; Stein et al., 1996; Warren & Cooper, 2005; White, 1998).

Students progressing in trajectories and in turn displaying mathematical thinking



- Developmental progressions in learning mathematics concepts are referred to as learning trajectories, stepping stones, or growth points

- Learning trajectories help teachers gauge students' conceptual development and determine what learning needs to be addressed for the next task

- Learning trajectories, also known as learning sequences, guide teachers in understanding students' learning journeys and planning appropriate learning experiences

- Learning trajectories are multidimensional, encompassing mathematics goals, models of students' thinking, instructional tasks, and their interaction

- Learning trajectories consist of three main components: a goal, a developmental progression, and instructional activities, with mathematical thinking occurring during the developmental progression

Students engaging in problem solving tasks

- The dispositions required to problem solve include:
- (a) preserving;
- (b) focusing attention on the problem;
- (c) testing the hypothesis;
- (d) taking risks;
- (e) displaying flexibility;
- (f) attempting to solve the problem in a different way; and,
- (g) displaying to self-regulate

- Students engage in problem solving by manipulating “physical objects, progress to various counting strategies, and then move on to more abstract strategies such as derived facts or invented algorithms”

- Students learn the processes of problem solving and the mathematical ideas that underpin that learning through exploring mathematical problems

Students engaging with strategies that support sense making

- Students benefit from engaging in multiple strategies to understand mathematics

- Invented strategies, such as solving problems without paper or pencil or using unconventional methods, aid in students' understanding of mathematics

- Inventing mathematical strategies lays the groundwork for tackling more complex mathematical concepts as students' progress

- Students' ability to invent strategies is evident across different age groups and is linked to deeper mathematical thinking

- Classroom environments that encourage inquiry and argumentation provide opportunities for students to express and develop their invented methods

Sense-Making | Adding Two-Digit Numbers

What is $24 + 58$?

Sense-Making | Adding Two-Digit Numbers

What is
 $24 + 58$?

Bill: *[Writing out the traditional addition algorithm]* $8 + 4$ is 12.
 Write the 2 here and the 1 up here. $1 + 2 + 4 = 7$. Write the
 7 next to the 2.

$$\begin{array}{r} 1 \\ 24 \\ +48 \\ \hline 72 \end{array}$$

Teacher: Is this really a 1?

Bill: Yes, it came from the 12; you're not allowed to put it next to
 the 2.

Teacher: Why not?

Bill: You're just not allowed to do that.

Sense-Making | Adding Two-Digit Numbers

Teacher: All year we have been talking about addition, and you have invented a bunch of ways to add two-digit numbers. Today, I want us to take a look at all these ways. I'd like you each to solve this problem in several different ways. Then, we'll talk about what you did.

Teacher: *[After students worked on the problem $24 + 48$ by themselves at their seats]* Okay, I want to hear what kinds of ways you used to solve this problem, and I want you explain to the class why you did what you did.

Fred: I remember doing the problem like this: 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 72.

Teacher: Explain what you did.

Fred: I started with the 20 in 24 and counted tens in 48. Then I counted 10 more from the 12, then 2 more.

Teacher: Where did you get 12?

Fred: It's just $4 + 8 = 12$. From the 24 and 48.

Teacher: Okay, how about a different way?

Mary: I did 48, 58, 68, 70, 72.

Teacher: Explain what you did.

Mary: I started with 48, and then I did the 24. I counted 10 onto 48, then 10 more, and then $2 + 2$ makes 24. If you do one part at a time, it's easy.

Teacher: Okay, how about another way?

Jon: I did $40 + 20 = 60$; $8 + 4 = 12$; $60 + 12 = 72$.

Teacher: How did you know you could do that?

Jon: You just add the tens, then add the ones, then add them together.

Teacher: Okay, how about another different way?

Serena: I need to write it. *[Goes to board and writes as shown below, then explains]* Here's how I added: $8 + 4$ is 12. So I wrote a 2 from 12 under the 8 and put the 10 from 12 over the 20, because it's tens. Then I added 10 and 20 and 40, and I got 70. And $70 + 2$ is 72.

$$\begin{array}{r} 10 \\ 20 + 4 \\ + 40 + 8 \\ \hline 70 + 2 = 72 \end{array}$$

Teacher: Why did you write the 2 under the 8?

Serena: You just put the 2 ones from 12 in the ones place that's under the 4 and 8.

Students displaying reasoning and justifying during mathematical learning experiences

Mathematical reasoning encompasses various types including inductive, deductive, abductive, and adaptive reasoning:

- Inductive reasoning: verifying predictions

- Abductive reasoning: find the best explanation with the use of additional information to build on new learning

- Deductive reasoning: making predictions



- Adaptive reasoning: using a collection of findings, processes, concepts and solutions, to make sense of the mathematical problems

- Justifying solutions is a key aspect of mathematical reasoning

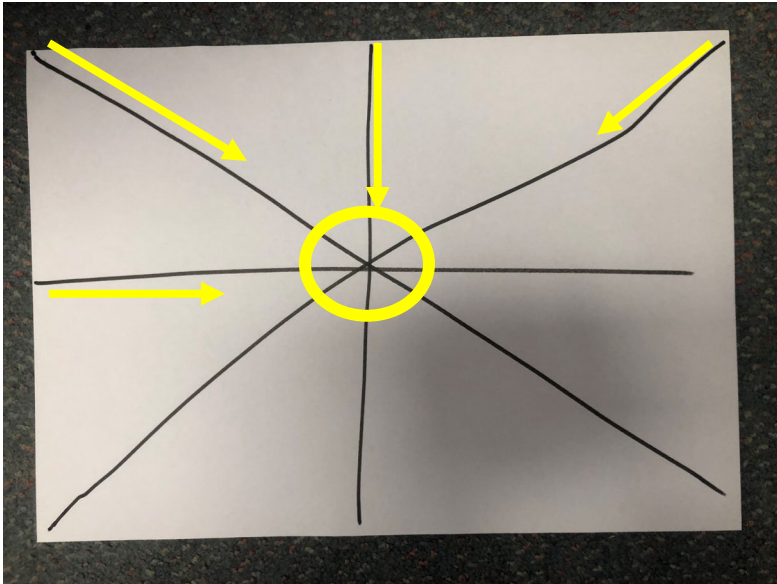
- Encouraging student discussion and explanation fosters the development of reasoning and justifying skills

- Students' ability to articulate their mathematical thinking improves through activities that promote mathematical inquiry and scaffolded participation over time

Reasoning | Finding the Middle

Learning experience one	Physical manipulatives	Example teacher questions
<p>Framed photograph—finding the middle</p> <p>This is a framed photograph of my son Joey. (<i>Hold up real framed photograph.</i>) I have a blank wall at home, and I would like to hang this photograph in the middle of that wall.</p> <p>Let's imagine this A3 piece of paper (hold up A3 paper) is the blank wall and this is a smaller picture frame (hold up small picture frame).</p> <p>Open-ended question: How can you find the exact place to hang up Joey's photograph?</p>	 <p>Photo frame (measures 20 cm × 15 cm)</p>  <p>Smaller laminated photo frame (measures 4 cm × 4 cm)</p>	<p>How can we check that's exactly the middle?</p> <p>What can we do to check?</p> <p>Is there a way that we can find exactly the middle of the entire wall?</p>

Reasoning | Finding the Middle



Student

- Are you going to give me a ruler?

Teacher

- No

Student

- You can't fold a wall so you can't fold this paper.
- *I will draw a line here and another line, here and just to prove it to you I will draw another line this way and another line this way, that is the middle.*

Students displaying reasoning and justifying during mathematical learning experiences

What type of reasoning was this student displaying?

Mathematical reasoning encompasses various types including inductive, deductive, abductive, and adaptive reasoning:

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- Abductive reasoning: find the best explanation with the use of additional information to build on new learning

- Deductive reasoning: making predictions

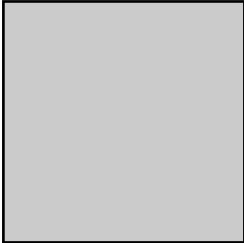
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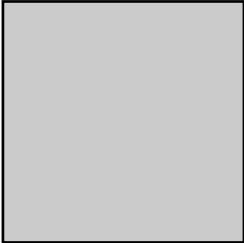
- Justifying solutions is a key aspect of mathematical reasoning

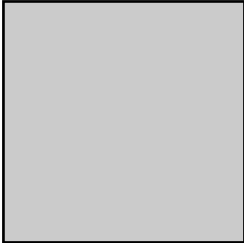
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**Students making
connections to known
mathematical ideas and
transferring their
thinking**

- 
- Recognising interrelationships within mathematical concepts is a crucial aspect of reasoning and mathematical thinking

- 
- Making mathematical connections involves identifying links within and between mathematical ideas, which indicates high levels of mathematical thinking

- 
- Purposefully constructed learning experiences that build on prior knowledge and make conceptual connections engage students in higher levels of mathematical thinking

Making Connections | How many tiles?

Learning Experience

Cubby house – identifying number of tiles required

I have just finished building a cubby house for my children at home (*show picture of the cubby house*). I would like to put these tiles down on the floor of the cubby house (*show square tile*).

Open-ended question: How can I work out how many tiles I need?

Physical manipulatives



Image of a cubby house



Square tile
(measures 5
cm x 5 cm)

Example teacher questions

So how do you know?
How can I figure out how many tiles I need to put on the floor of the cubbyhouse?

Making Connections | How many tiles?

Student

- You could *get a measuring tape and then pull it across like that, where the corners are.*
- Then you'll get five tiles, five tiles, five tiles. You keep getting five tiles and then you start laying them out in a row of five, like this.
- One, two, three, four, five.

Teacher

- Do you think that only five tiles can fit across here? Is that what you think?

Student

- Well maybe you could use wood to do it.

Teacher

- Wood? Explain how you could use wood.

Student

- Pretend this is a whole piece of wood.
- And this is a whole piece of wood.
- It would go across the cubby house.
- And this is a piece of wood. And then that's a piece of wood.
- This is a piece of wood.
- And those last other ones could go, these last other ones, could go on top here.
- And one will go here.
- *And so, what you need to buy is one more tile.*

Five ways to guide our thinking...

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5

Students making connections to known mathematical ideas and transferring their thinking

(Carpenter et al., 1990; Clements & Sarama, 2007; Fraivillig et al., 1999; Kinnear et al., 2018; Mulligan et al., 2006; Papic et al., 2011; Stein et al., 1996; Warren & Cooper, 2005; White, 1998).

Critical
Thinking (CT)



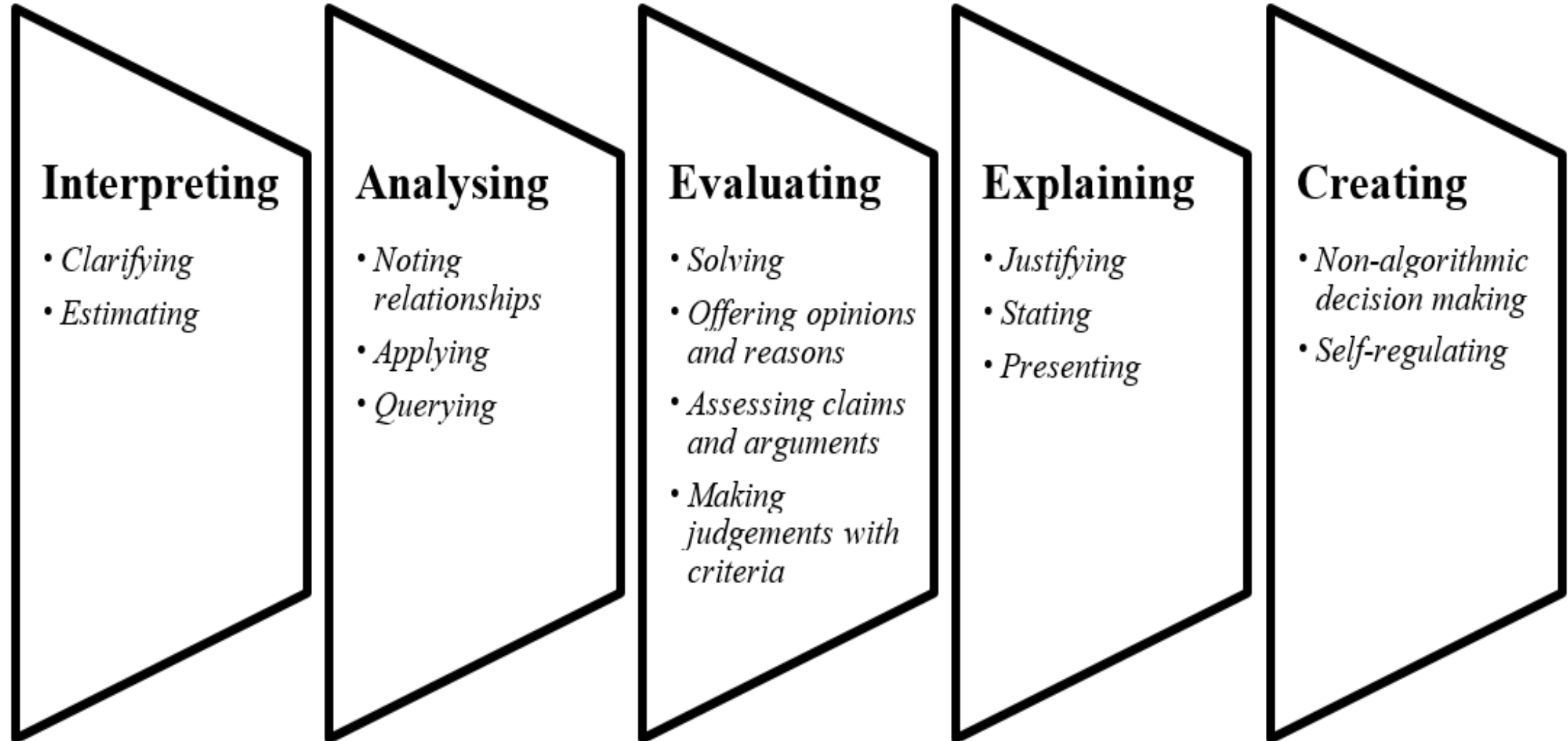
Mathematical
Thinking (MT)



Critical
Mathematical
Thinking
(CMT)

Critical Mathematical Thinking For Young Students

Conceptual Framework



The five CMT themes

Interpreting

- Is an essential part of critical thinking, as it involves the formation of logical judgments or conclusions.
- Critical thinkers who make decisions may also engage in interpretation.
- The literature on interpreting that is part of the CMTFYS include clarifying and estimating.

Analysing

- Is recognised as an important component of critical thinking.
- Is both a cognitive skill and an affective disposition.
- The sub-themes that represent analysing in critical thinking include applying, questioning, and noting relationships.

Evaluating

- Making claims and thought processes has been identified as an essential practice for promoting mathematical thinking.
- The literature on mathematical thinking also identifies sub-themes of evaluating, including making judgments based on criteria, solving problems, and providing opinions supported by reasoning.

Explaining

- *This occurs* when an individual provides reasons for decisions made, as well as depth and detail of the explanation.
- The sub-themes, such as stating, presenting, and justifying, help individuals develop their critical thinking skills by enabling them to explain their thought processes and how they arrived at their judgments.

Creating

- This involves generating new and innovative ideas.
- Sub-themes associated with creating and critical thinking are related to evaluation and decision-making.
- One such sub-theme is self-regulation, which involves an individual's ability to evaluate their own inferences. Non-algorithmic decision-making, which involves mental processes, strategies, and representations that people use to solve problems and make decisions, is also as a critical thinking element.

Victorian Teaching and Learning Model 2.0

Elements of learning



Attention, focus and regulation

Refers to learning requiring students' attention and involving active engagement in a supportive and responsive learning-focused environment.



Knowledge and memory

Refers to students processing new information in their working memory, where they connect it with existing knowledge in long-term memory, building mental models that integrate and organise knowledge.

Interpreting



Retention and recall

Refers to working memory being able to hold a small amount of information at once (cognitive load). If overloaded, new knowledge won't be effectively stored in long-term memory.

Explaining



Mastery and application

Refers to consistent practice and retrieval, allowing students to develop and demonstrate mastery by retaining knowledge and understanding how to apply it effectively.

Evaluating

Creating

Analysing

How does CMT link to the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF)?

- In the elaborations of the outcomes within the EYLF, mathematical thinking may occur when children problem solve. For example, one outcome from the EYLF, Children and Confident and Involved Learners, highlights mathematical thinking opportunities, as follows:

create and use representation to organise, record and communicate mathematical ideas and concepts;

make predictions and generalisations about their daily activities, aspects of the natural world and environments, using patterns they generate or identify and communicate these using mathematical language and symbols;

contribute to mathematical discussions and arguments.

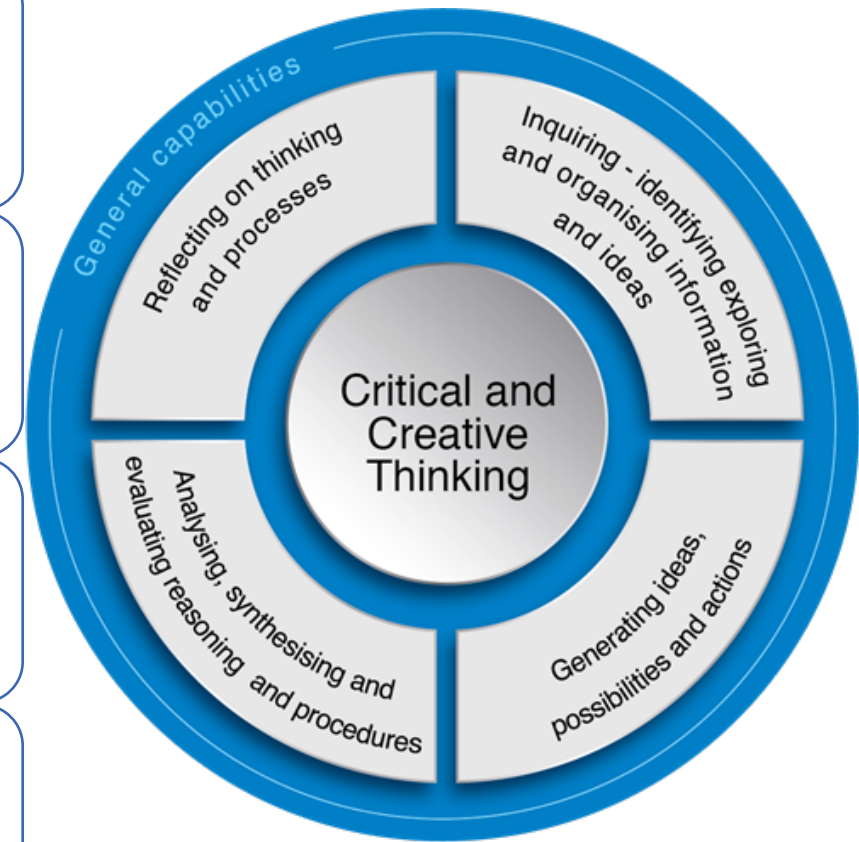
How does CMT link to the Australian Curriculum?

For primary aged children, the Australian Curriculum (2022) includes general capabilities that teachers are to address across all subject areas, including mathematics.

One general capability that aligns with critical mathematical thinking is *Critical and Creative Thinking*.

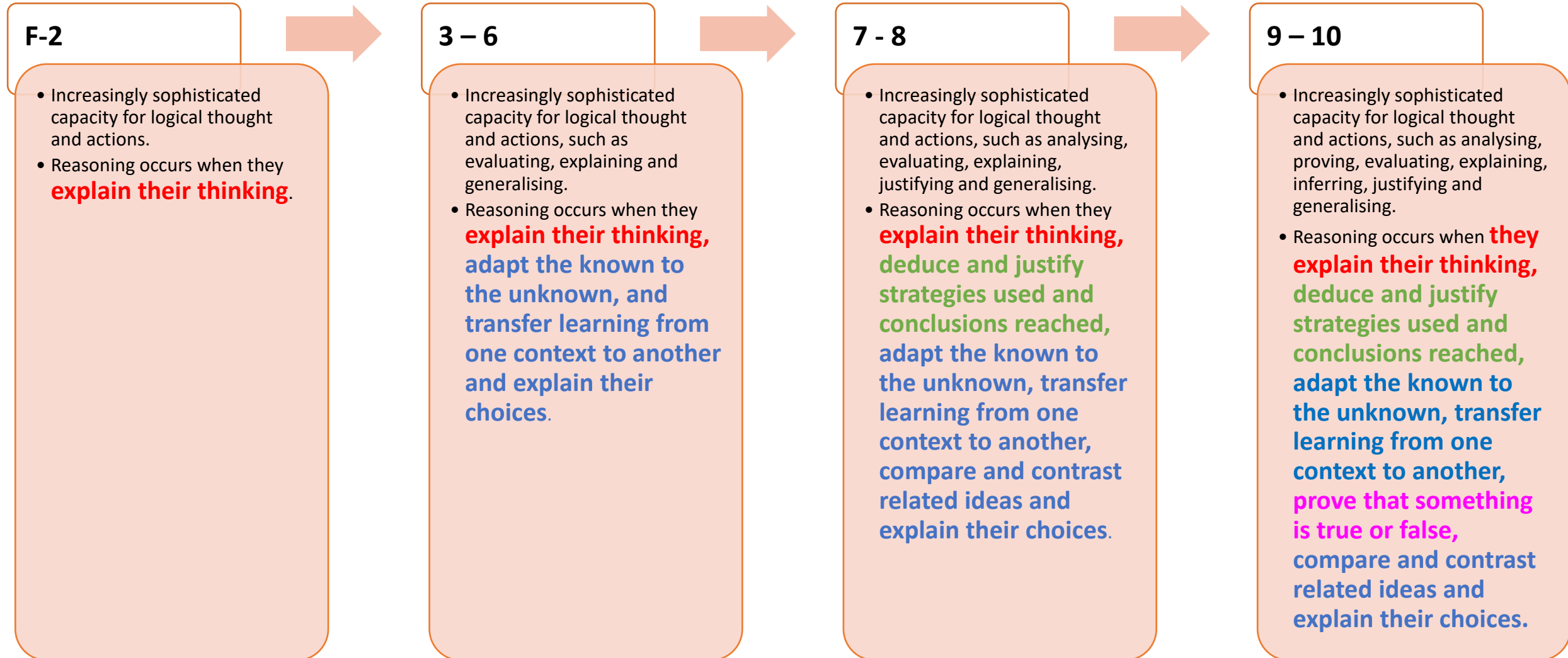
Critical thinking involves recognising arguments, evaluating evidence, and solving problems, while creative thinking involves generating new ideas and finding innovative solutions.

In the Australian curriculum for Mathematics F – 6, the four proficiencies help enhance CMT. They include understanding, fluency, problem-solving and reasoning.





Critical and Creative Thinking (Version 8.4)

Reasoning in the curriculum



Mathematics scope and sequence – Foundation to Level 6

2.0						
Mathematics scope and sequence – Foundation to Level 6						
Strand: Number						
Foundation	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6
Content descriptions						
name, represent and order numbers, including zero to at least 20, using physical and virtual materials and numerals VC2MFN01	recognise, represent and order numbers to at least 120 using physical and virtual materials, numerals, number lines and charts VC2M1N01	recognise, represent and order numbers to at least 1000 using physical and virtual materials, numerals and number lines VC2M2N01	Identify, explain and use the properties of odd and even numbers VC2M3N01	recognise and extend the application of place value to tenths and hundredths and use the conventions of decimal notation to name and represent decimals VC2M4N01	interpret, compare and order numbers with more than 2 decimal places, including numbers greater than one, using place value understanding; represent these on a number line VC2M5N01	recognise situations, including financial contexts, that use integers; locate and represent integers on a number line and as coordinates on the Cartesian plane VC2M6N01
recognise and name the number of objects within a collection up to 5 using subitising VC2MFN02			recognise, represent and order natural numbers using naming and writing conventions for numerals beyond 10 000 VC2M3N02	investigate number sequences involving multiples of 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 9 VC2M4N02	express natural numbers as products of their factors, recognise multiples and determine if one number is divisible by another VC2M5N02	Identify and describe the properties of prime, composite, square and triangular numbers and use these properties to solve problems and simplify calculations VC2M6N02
quantify and compare collections to at least 20 using counting and explain or demonstrate reasoning VC2MFN03						
	partition one- and two-digit numbers in different ways using physical and virtual materials, including partitioning two-digit numbers into tens and ones VC2M1N02	partition, rearrange, regroup and rename two- and three-digit numbers using standard and non-standard groupings; recognise the role of a zero digit in place value notation VC2M2N02				
	quantify sets of objects, to at least 120, by partitioning collections into equal groups using number knowledge and skip counting VC2M1N03					
		recognise and describe one-half as one of 2 equal parts of a whole and connect halves, quarters and eighths through repeated halving VC2M2N03	recognise and represent unit fractions including $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{8}$ and $\frac{1}{10}$ and their multiples in different ways; combine fractions with the same denominator to complete the whole VC2M3N03	find equivalent representations of fractions using related denominators and make connections between fractions and decimal notation VC2M4N03	compare and order common unit fractions with the same and related denominators, including mixed numerals, applying knowledge of factors and multiples; represent these fractions on a number line VC2M5N03	apply knowledge of equivalence to compare, order and represent common fractions, including halves, thirds and quarters, on the same number line and justify their order VC2M6N03

Reasoning	Reason*
	
quantify and compare collections to at least 20 using counting and explain or demonstrate reasoning VC2MFN03	
	add and subtract one- and two-digit numbers, represent problems using number sentences and solve using part-part-whole reasoning and a variety of calculation strategies VC2M2N04
choose and use estimation and rounding to check and explain the reasonableness of calculations, including the results of financial transactions VC2M4N07	

Mathematics scope and sequence – Levels 7 – 10A

2.0				
VICTORIAN CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY				
VICTORIA State Government				
Mathematics scope and sequence – Levels 7–10A				
Strand: Number				
Level 7	Level 8	Level 9	Level 10	Level 10A
Content descriptions				
describe the relationship between perfect square numbers and square roots, and use squares of numbers and square roots of perfect square numbers to solve problems VC2M7N01	recognise irrational numbers in applied contexts, including π and numbers that develop from the square root of positive real numbers that are not perfect squares, and recognise that irrational numbers cannot develop from the division of integer values by natural numbers VC2M8N01	recognise that the real number system includes the rational numbers and the irrational numbers, and solve problems involving real numbers with and without using digital tools VC2M9N01		use the definition of a logarithm to establish and apply the laws of logarithms and investigate logarithmic scales in measurement VC2M10AN03
represent natural numbers in expanded notation using powers of 10, and as products of powers of prime numbers using exponent notation VC2M7N02	establish and apply the exponent laws with integer exponents and the zero exponent, using exponent notation with numbers VC2M8N02			
find equivalent representations of rational numbers and represent positive and negative rational numbers and mixed numbers on a number line VC2M7N03	convert between fractions and terminating or recurring decimals, using digital tools as appropriate VC2M8N03			
round decimals to a given accuracy appropriate to the context and use appropriate rounding and estimation to check the reasonableness of computations VC2M7N04				
multiply and divide fractions and decimals using efficient mental and written strategies, and digital tools VC2M7N05	use the 4 operations with integers and with rational numbers, choosing and using efficient mental and written strategies, and digital tools where appropriate, and making estimates for these computations VC2M8N04		recognise the effect of using approximations of real numbers in repeated calculations and compare the results when using exact representations VC2M10N01	define rational and irrational numbers and perform operations with surds and fractional indices VC2M10AN01
use the 4 operations with positive rational numbers, including fractions and decimals, to solve problems using efficient mental and written calculation strategies VC2M7N06	solve problems involving the use of percentages, including percentage increases and decreases and percentage error, with and without digital tools VC2M8N05			perform operations on numbers involving fractional exponents and surds VC2M10AN02
find percentages of quantities and express one quantity as a percentage of another, with and without digital tools VC2M7N07				
compare, order and solve problems involving addition and subtraction of integers VC2M7N08				
recognise, represent and solve problems involving ratios VC2M7N09				

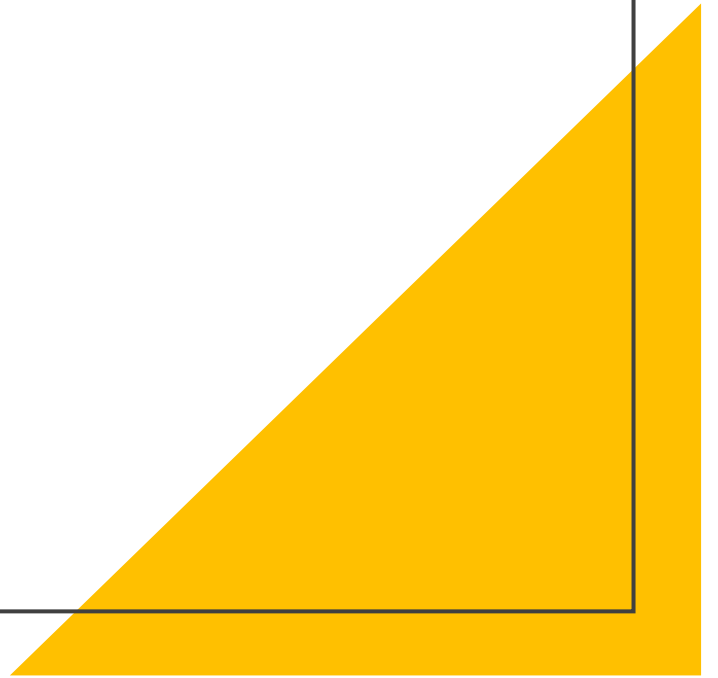
Reasoning	Reason*

round decimals to a given accuracy appropriate to the context and use appropriate rounding and estimation to check the reasonableness of computations
VC2M7N04

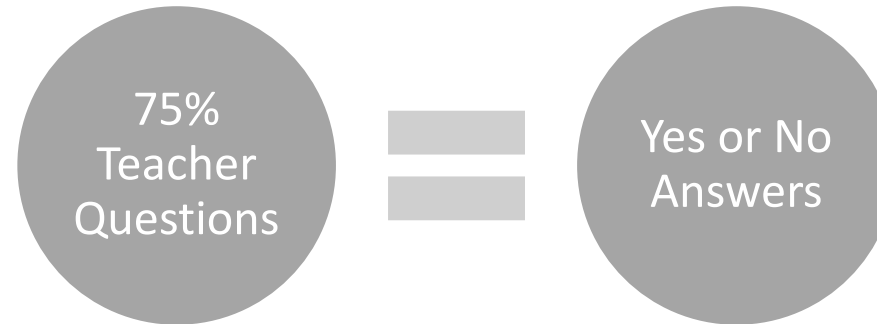
establish properties of quadrilaterals using congruent triangles and angle properties, and solve related problems explaining reasoning
VC2M8SP02

<https://victoriancurriculum.vcaa.vic.edu.au/mathematics-version-2-0/introduction/scope-and-sequence>

Teacher questioning



Teacher questioning – in a primary mathematics classroom setting



Factual questions



Probing questions



Guiding questions



Factual Teacher Questions

Factual questions tend to provide very little information about a student's understanding of a concept or content.

These questions are lower order with little opportunity to discuss strategies with others (Sahin & Kulm, 2008).

What is the name of figure X?

Which figure has five sides?

How many figures have an acute angle?

Is 76 larger than 67?

Probing Teacher Questions

Probing questions have been found to extend student's understanding, knowledge, and mathematical thinking.

These questions move students from low level to higher order thinking (Sahin & Kulm, 2008) providing further clarity about a student's explanation.

Is there another way to solve this?

What do you mean by X?

How did you work that out; do you think it matters?)

What would happen if...?

Okay, why?

Guiding Teacher Questions

Guiding questions are considered questions that direct students to derive concepts or procedures to solve problems (Mata-Pereira & da Ponte, 2017).

These questions are used when the teacher is supporting students to discuss their solutions, strategies, or procedures they used in the learning experience.

Which method do you need to use now?

Have you developed a strategy to ...?

Are there any other options...?

What do you notice about this problem?

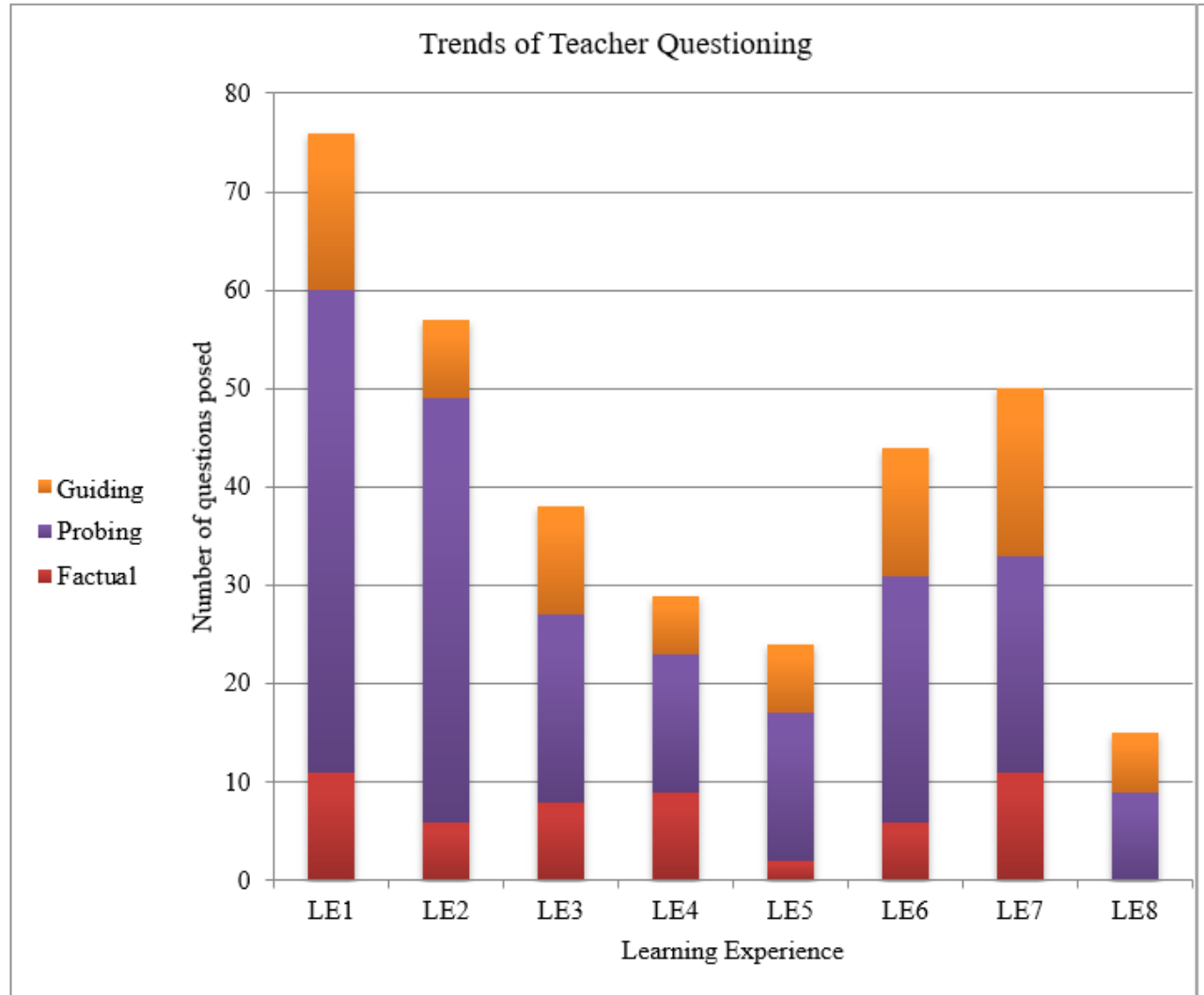
What facts does the problem tell you?

What are you trying to find out? (What is the problem asking for?)

What tool might help you?

How could drawing, table or diagram help you?

Analysis of my teacher questioning



Summary of the Types of Teacher Questions

Factual Questions	Probing Questions	Guiding Questions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide very little information about a student's understanding of a concept or content • Are lower order with little opportunity to discuss strategies with others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can extend student's understanding, knowledge, and mathematical thinking • Support students to move from low level to higher order thinking • Provide further clarity about a student's explanation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct students to derive concepts or procedures to solve problems • Can support students to discuss their solutions, strategies, or procedures they used in the learning experience
<p>What is the name of figure X? Which figure has five sides? How many figures have an acute angle? Is 76 larger than 67?</p>	<p>Is there another way to solve this? What do you mean by X? How did you work that out; do you think it matters?) What would happen if...? Okay, why?</p>	<p>Which method do you need to use now? Have you developed a strategy to ...? Are there any other options...? What do you notice about this problem? What facts does the problem tell you? What are you trying to find out? (What is the problem asking for? What tool might help you? How could drawing, table or diagram help you?</p>

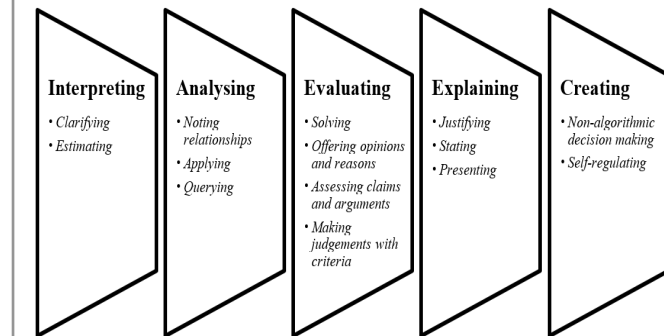
Why do we ask these questions – enhancing Reasoning and Critical Mathematical Thinking

Probing questions were predominantly used to support students in eliciting their CMT.

Guiding and factual questions were less prevalent in the interviews.

Different types of questioning were analysed in relation to the CMTFYS.

Specific question types can aid students in interpreting and explaining their CMT during mathematical learning experiences



What type of learning is best situated for CMT?

Students use mathematical proof to justify solutions

Students of primary and middle-school age can articulate arguments

Students develop justifications through making sense of problems, noticing patterns, and posing hypotheses

Discussions and negotiations with peers help students refine their solutions and understanding of mathematical reasoning

When students articulate convincing justifications, they further refine their understanding and ability to validate mathematical statements

Was this presentation about explicit teaching in mathematics?



Victorian Teaching and Learning Model 2.0

Elements of learning			
Attention, focus and regulation	Knowledge and memory	Retention and recall	Mastery and application
Refers to learning requiring students' attention and involving active engagement in a supportive and responsive learning-focused environment.	Refers to students processing new information in their working memory, where they connect it with existing knowledge in long-term memory, building mental models that integrate and organise knowledge.	Refers to working memory being able to hold a small amount of information at once (cognitive load). If overloaded, new knowledge won't be effectively stored in long-term memory.	Refers to consistent practice and retrieval, allowing students to develop and demonstrate mastery by retaining knowledge and understanding how to apply it effectively.

Elements of teaching	
Planning	Refers to the collaborative development of whole school teaching and learning programs that break down and sequence the knowledge to be taught and assessed. It also refers to the planning required to implement the curriculum into the classroom and to the school-wide enactment of a multi-tiered system of supports.
Enabling learning	Refers to the positive relationships, cultural responsiveness, classroom expectations and management techniques that teachers establish and use to foster student self-regulation and self-efficacy, and to create a learning-focused environment where the development and application of knowledge drives curiosity and creativity.
Explicit teaching	Refers to the evidence-based practices that manage the cognitive load of students, including activating prior knowledge, clearly stating learning objectives, providing explicit explanations of new knowledge, scaffolding learning and modelling practice, and using formative assessment and feedback to monitor progress towards mastery.
Supported application	Refers to the practices that maximise the consolidation and application of learning, including revisiting and reviewing knowledge, varying and spacing practice, organising knowledge and extending and challenging students as they move to mastery of new factual, conceptual and procedural knowledge.

* Knowledge includes factual, conceptual and procedural knowledge. See AERO (2023), <https://www.aero.edu.au/resources/how-students-learn-best>, p.5

How a more explicit teaching style helped this school defy NAPLAN struggles elsewhere

By national education and parenting reporter Conor Duffy and the Specialist Reporting Team's Evan Young
Posted Thu 24 Aug 2023 at 4:58am



Nasya Hassan is a teacher at Sydney Adventist School, where NAPLAN results have seen a big turnaround. (ABC News: Marcus Stimson)

This was published 6 months ago

Education boss calls for doubling down on explicit teaching in schools



Lucy Carroll

October 23, 2023 — 5:00am



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The head of the NSW public education system has called on schools to double down on the use of explicit instruction – a teaching method that gives students step-by-step and clear instructions – in a bid to boost results and close the stark achievement gap.

How an explicit teaching approach optimises learning

Breaking down and fully explaining content helps students transfer information to memory

Providing opportunities for review and practise helps students retain and recall what they learn

Organising and sequencing content around a specific objective deepens student understanding

Knowledge-building, guidance and scaffolding supports students with additional limitations in prior knowledge, memory and information processing

A strong foundation of knowledge and skills provides students with mental models for extending and applying their learning with greater independence

Key take-aways



Read about Critical Mathematical Thinking

Monteleone, C., Miller, J., & Warren, E. (2023). Conceptualising critical mathematical thinking in young students. *Mathematics Education Research Journal*, 35(2), 339-359.

Monteleone, C., & Miller, J. (2023). Evidence of Young Students' Critical Mathematical Thinking. *Mathematics Education Research Group of Australasia*.

Monteleone, C. (2022). Teacher Questioning to Support Young Students to Interpret and Explain Their Critical Mathematical Thinking. *Mathematics Education Research Group of Australasia*.



Pose guiding and probing questions



Rethink your explicit teaching strategies

What is best in mathematics deserves not merely to be learned as a task but to be assimilated as a part of daily thought and brought again and again before the mind with ever-renewed encouragement.

Bertrand Russell, in his book *Contemplation and Action*, 1902-14 (1985), stressing the continuous interplay of reasoning and reflection in mathematics.

*Reasoning is the lifeblood of mathematics;
the air it breathes.*

Hannah Fry is a British academic, author and radio and television presenter. She is Professor in the Mathematics of Cities at the UCL Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis.

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