

Next-step observation sheet

Watch three learners on one task. Note what each can do alone, what they can do with help, and plan the next step from that gap.

Task we are observing

Learner	Can do alone	Can do with help Circle the help: prompt · clue · model	Not yet	Next step I will plan
1		prompt · clue · model		
2		prompt · clue · model		
3		prompt · clue · model		

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What did the help show me?

If light help was enough, the next step can be harder. If only a full model worked, revisit the earlier knowledge first.

Pitch check for the whole class

☐ Did every group, including my highest attainers, meet a step they could only reach with help?

☐ Did I avoid deciding someone's next step from a label instead of what I saw today?

☐ Is the next step still the same goal, with different support?

Where this comes from: Lev Vygotsky's zone of proximal development, from *Mind in Society* (Harvard University Press, 1978). He compared what a learner does alone with what they can do with guidance or with a more capable peer. The sheet records that gap for one task. Pairs with Structural Learning's guide to the zone of proximal development.