

Guide Five **How do I plan** **a lesson?**

Chapter 1:

Lesson planning and structure

Once you have a clear idea of what you want to teach and at what pace, you can start to think about how to structure sessions.

The lesson itself, when removed from the restrictions that schooling places on learners, can take many different forms and it's important to allow your creativity to be your guide here. Learning outside the classroom has the scope to be much more imaginative, but some basic principles have to be followed in order for it to be effective.

Creating a lesson planning system (a quick form or list or a diary entry that you can refer to) is strongly advisable; if you have no structure, your children won't either. Despite fashionable arguments from the 1970s onwards against structure in learning, there is precious little evidence that unstructured teaching does anything other than confuse children and produce very weak lessons.

A lesson plan should begin with a learning objective; this is a question you wish your child to be able to answer by the end of the lesson. Try to limit it to one objective per lesson. Make sure that the objectives of lesson two follow on from the objectives of lesson one; this makes the new ideas children have in each session far easier to grasp.

Lessons often have a three part structure, Here's an example lesson plan;

1. Starter (5–10 minutes)

This is a short, fun, active introduction to the lesson that is related to the topic. If you were teaching about the Norman Conquests to Key Stage Three learners, perhaps an appropriate type of exercise would be to give them a mixed up series of cards with key events from the historical narrative, which need to be quickly re-arranged into the right order, with the pupils arguing why their version of events is right.



2. Main Exercise (30-40 minutes)

Now you have got your child switched on, focused and engaged, you are into your window of peak learning, which is about half an hour to forty minutes. This time is precious, so don't clog it up with too much talk, you need to give the learner a sufficient amount of information in a handout, book, DVD or website so they have knowledge from which to learn, but you aren't so much driving towards filling them with facts as teasing out a judgement or evaluation. Your lesson needs to have a key question, such as 'Why did William win at the Battle of Hastings?' or 'What were the consequences of William's victory for England?', otherwise it is just a process of chewing through facts, and if your learner doesn't find that boring, you will!



3. Plenary Session (5- 10 minutes)

A plenary session is where you assess whether the learning has been effective, and it's a nice conclusion to the lesson that gives the learner a sense of resolution. In this last ten minutes, try not to ask 'did you understand that?', as most learners will try to please their teacher by saying yes, even if they didn't. Instead, you need to coax the learner into 'teaching' you; by asking them bigger questions that ascertain what meaning or conclusions they can draw from the lesson, you'll know how much learning really happened.



We're here to support you and help make learning fun! For more lesson plans and ideas from our teachers and homeschool experts, check out the advice section of EdPlace's homeschooling hub.

Chapter 2:

How do I monitor my child's progress?

In terms of lesson 'success', one measure of progress is your lesson objective question; if your child could not answer this question at the start of the lesson but can by the end of the lesson then they have made progress.

However sometimes we need a more specific measure of progress. You could use exam boards' past papers for KS4 children but often these assessments are designed for the end of the entire course rather than at the end of a topic.

EdPlace's assessments help give you visibility on your child's topic strengths, as well as the topics they find more challenging. We also send weekly progress reports you keep you in the know. - is it the first or third paragraph that needs replacing?



Why ed place?

EdPlace is here to be your homeschooling partner! We're fully comprehensive from Year 1 all the way up to GCSE in English, maths and science. Our activities, assessments and revision materials are used and trusted by many homeschooling parents. Progress reports provide visibility to your child's development - we want to see them flourish, that's what we're here for afterall!

We're here to help your child soar to success! Our mission is to create invincible learners by building a foundation on inspiration, knowledge and confidence, all with a sprinkle of EdPlace magic.



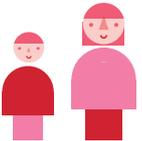
Comprehensive

1000s of English, maths and science activities, assessments and revision materials from Year 1 - GCSE.



Effective

EdPlace students progress 150% in a school year!



SEND accessible

Our accessibility toolbar makes online learning accessible to all students, no matter their learning difference. Change fonts, colours, text sizes and even languages (we have over 150!)



Personalised

Tailored learning journey based on each student's needs.



Student-approved

Badges and personalised rewards help make learning fun and tailored to each individual.

Subscriptions from just £10 a month

Start your 14-day trial for just £1 by visiting [edplace.com](https://www.edplace.com).