

Precision Teaching

Loose Primary School

November 2018

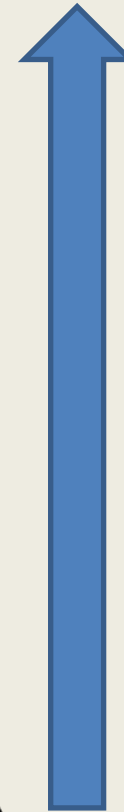
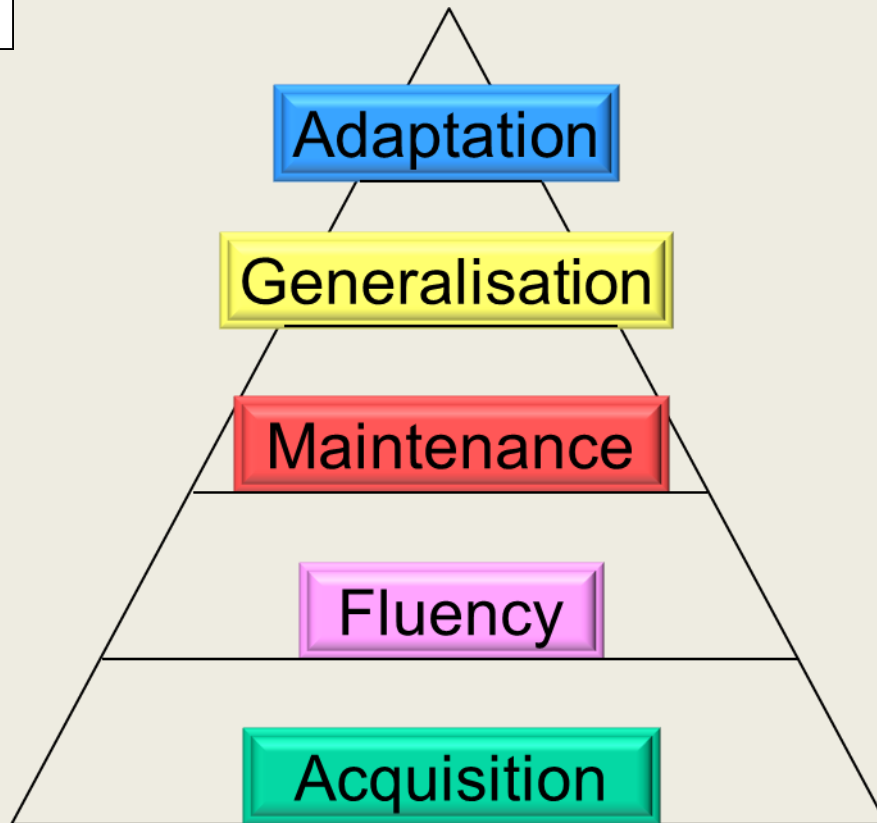
What is Precision Teaching?

- A simple but intense, precise way of developing and measuring progress in a specific skill (e.g. single word reading, HFWs, phonics, times-tables, number bonds)
- Suited to any child in any year group in any domain

Founded on the principle that mastery of a skill involves ***fluency*** and not just ***accuracy***



The Learning Hierarchy



Precision Teaching embeds fluency. If a child is fluent, they can move up the hierarchy. Ultimate aim is that the child ***applies*** the skill.

Helping a child create well trodden paths...

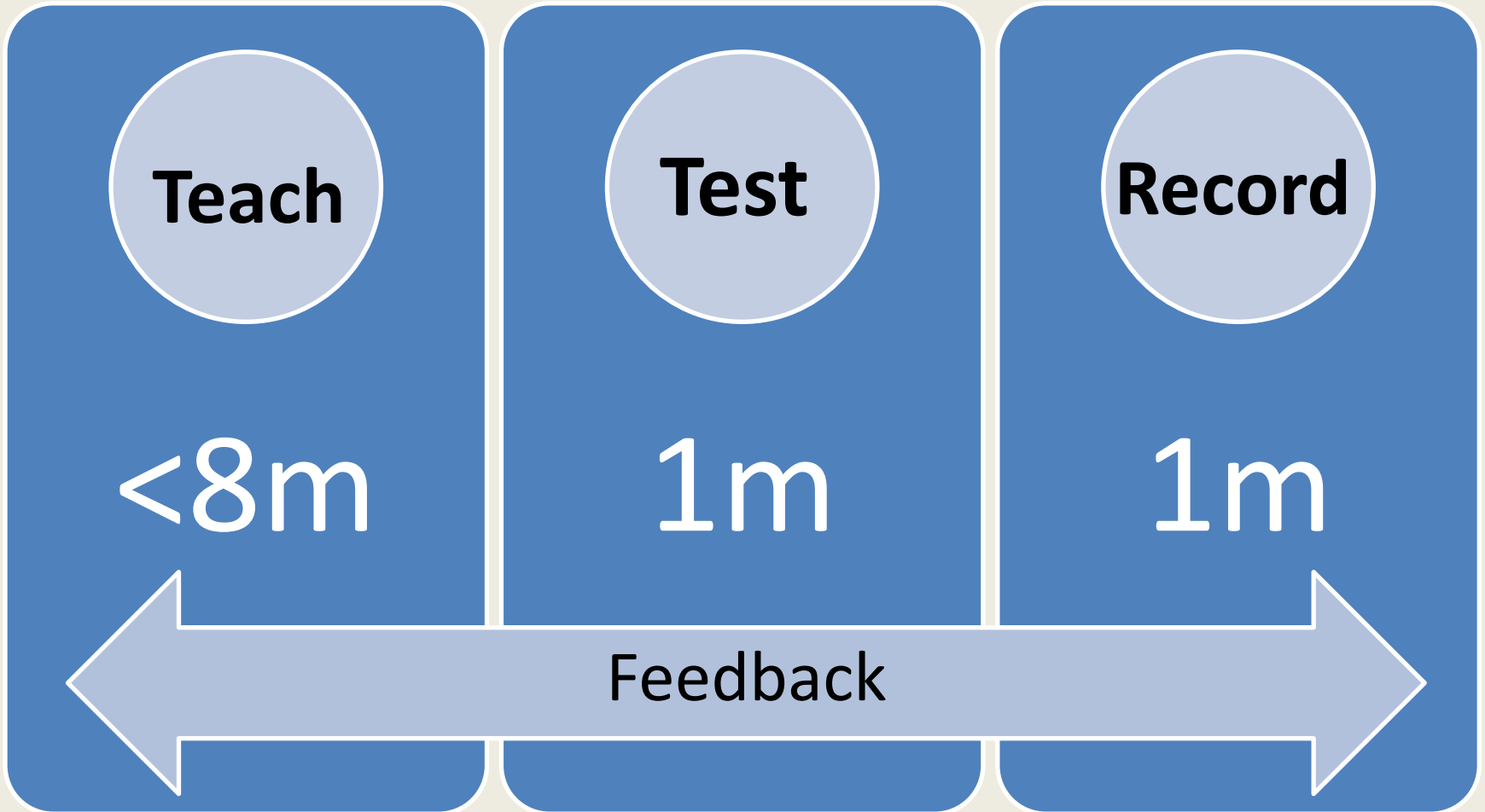


Automaticity and brain capacity

Long-term memory **retrieval** requires revisiting the **neural pathways** the brain formed when it was initially taught or exposed to new learning. The strength of those pathways determines how quickly you recall and use the memory. To reinforce that initial memory, it must move multiple times across the nerve cells, retracing its step.

- Chiesa & Robertson, 2000

So, how do I do it?



Little and often is key to success.

Step 1: Teach

- Select the next step that the child needs to learn (times tables/phonemes/HFWs/number bonds). Teach what you intend to test (5 items)
- Motivating games and activities for up to 8 mins (give plenty of encouragement):

Bingo

Word or number splat

Cloze procedure

Spot the adult's mistake

Unscramble the letters in a word

Wordsearch (lots of online wordsearch generators)

Step 2: Test

- Design test sheet so that it is appropriate
- Test for 1 minute, setting a stopwatch or sandtimer
- Record both correct and incorrect responses
- If child gets stuck on an item, give them 4-5 mins to think, then move them along
- Praise child!

Probe Sheets

Probe Type	Good for:-
See and Say	Letter recognition Number recognition Reading HFWs Identifying colours
Hear and Write	Identifying numbers Learning spellings
Hear and Say	Blending Segmenting
See and Write	Write answers to mathematical questions Forming letters Forming numbers

Have dozens of blank probe sheets ready. You will create a new probe with every new/amended set of items to test

Features of test sheet:

- Need to be a sufficient number of items on the test sheet to continue responding for one minute (Fill it up!)
- **5 items** repeated
- Important to place items in a **randomised** order
- Test sheets to be reusable; the same sheet to last a few days

Name Jasmine

circle	city	centre	cycle	city	5
centre	circle	cycle	circle	cycle	10
city	centre	circle	cycle	city	15
centre	cycle	centre	city	circle	20
circle	centre	city	cycle	centre	25
city	cycle	circle	city	centre	30
cycle	centre	city	circle	cycle	35
city	cycle	centre	circle	city	40

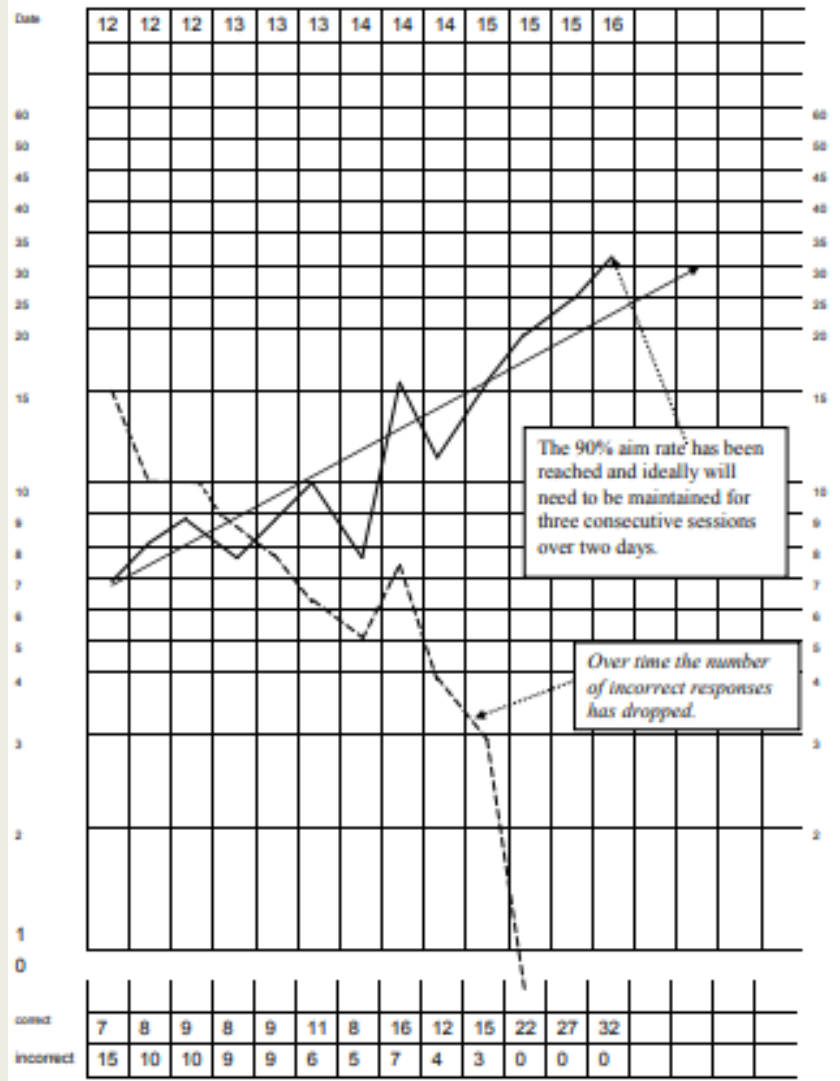
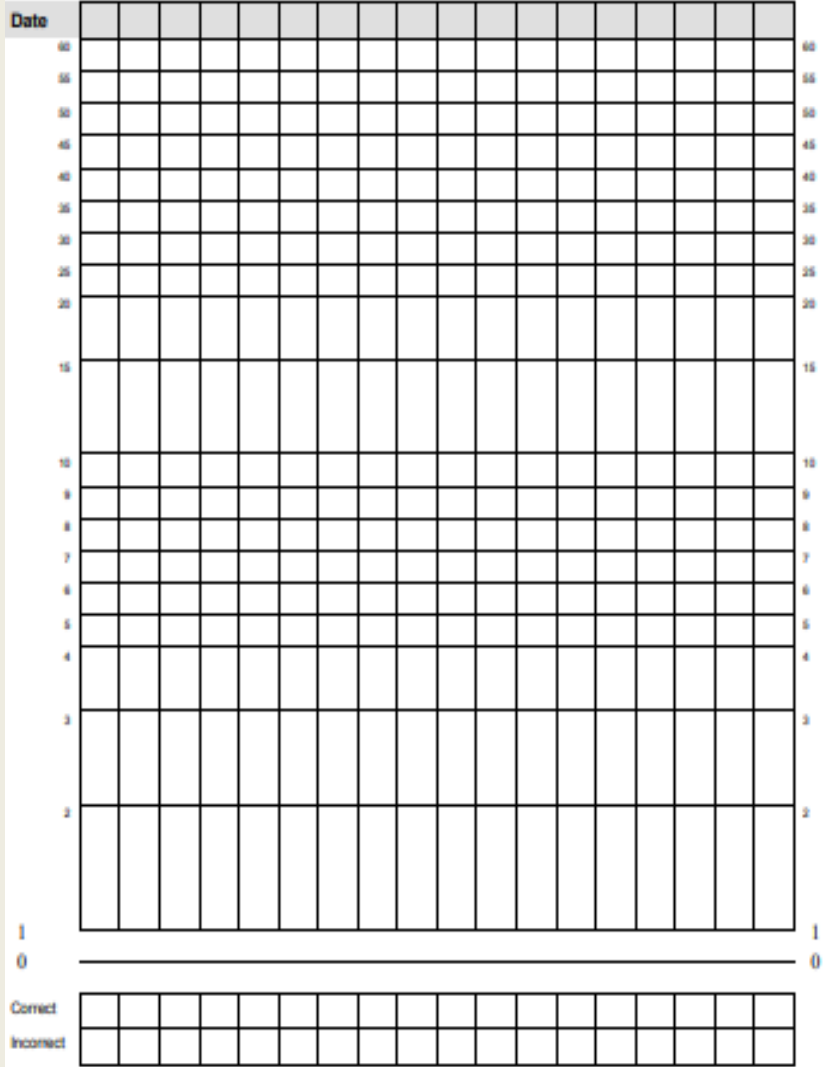
Comments:

Step 3: Record (i)

- You record the child's progress on the 'Precision Teaching Graph'
- Plot the number of incorrect responses on the bottom half of the chart (using crosses). This will show the child's accuracy is improving.
- Plot the number of correct responses on the top half of the chart (using dots). This will show how the child's fluency is improving.

Task _____

Name _____



Step 3: Record (ii)

- The chart will show the rate of learning.
- When the fluency line starts to flatten out (a real learning curve!) this indicates the child is mastering the skill. It is time to move on.
- Do not join points across weekends or missed days

Look at the chart – why does it have uneven jumps or numbers?

Share the chart with the child! It motivates them by demonstrating their success .

What if a child is stuck?

SLICE the task, e.g. reduce the words tested from 5 to 3.

And/Or

Adapt your teaching method, experiment. See what the child responds best to, e.g. more visual methods.

Free Resources

<http://www.johnandgwyn.co.uk/probe.html>