

The importance of independent practice - Primary

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Independent practice in Key Stage One builds pupils confidence and enables the teacher to make an assessment on strategies pupils are using, and to gain an understanding of what pupils have learnt. The teacher knows what pupils' interests are and where challenge or support is needed to revisit a particular concept that maybe proving tricky for pupils.

The teacher needs to be clear on expected learning outcomes and the steps needed through scaffolding. This will ensure pupils are ready and prepared for working independently with success. Pupils' resilience to work independently and the desire to achieve is key in this area. The teacher should ensure relationships with all pupils are strong, consistent and respectful in order for the pupils to develop confidence in their learning within the classroom environment.

The teacher needs to take risks often to allow pupils to make mistakes and to create a culture of risk taking as a way of the pupils learning and remembering more. Pupils should be encouraged to attempt tasks and challenges on their own when they are ready but also reassured that they can ask for help, clarification and support as and when required.

Teachers make judgements on individual pupil performance during independent tasks through every lesson based on observation, marking of work and through questioning. This will inform the teacher which pupils are confident to work with independence and those who still require encouragement and further scaffolding.

It is important to review and discuss independent learning with pupils in order for them to develop confidence to ensure they have opportunities to reflect on their own learning. This feeds into assessment for learning so the teacher can make adjustments in planning to ensure all pupils achieve.