

Evidence for Learning

What is Evidence for Learning?

We know that the most effective teaching and intervention is rooted in evidence-based practices. But what exactly are those practices and where is the evidence to support them? We are excited to steer your attention to the online resource Evidence for Learning. With a simple vision to help educators understand what works best and why, Evidence for Learning should be in every teacher's toolkit.



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The brains behind Evidence for Learning

Managed by a team of [Australian Education experts](#) and supported by the Educational Endowment Foundation, Evidence For Learning is a gold mine of high quality information for teachers. The Education Endowment Foundation's mantra is to provide "practical, evidence-based guidance to help schools focus on a small number of strategies that are likely to make the biggest difference."

The Teaching and Learning Toolkit

Evidence for Learning contains Teaching Toolkits which summarise and evaluate decades of global research into teaching approaches. The [Teaching and Learning Toolkit](#) contains 35 teaching approaches for primary and secondary teachers. The [Early Childhood Education Toolkit](#) contains 12 teaching approaches for pre-school aged children. Today, our focus is on the Teaching and Learning Toolkit.

Each teaching practice is evaluated by cost, evidence security and how many months' progress it delivers on average. The teaching approaches can be opened to view a robust discussion of their effectiveness, costs, related research, security of evidence, other considerations and further reading.

Mastery learning	\$ \$ \$ \$ \$	🔒 🔒 🔒 🔒 🔒	+5
Mentoring	\$ \$ \$ \$ \$	🔒 🔒 🔒 🔒 🔒	0
Metacognition and self-regulation	\$ \$ \$ \$ \$	🔒 🔒 🔒 🔒 🔒	+7
One to one tuition	\$ \$ \$ \$ \$	🔒 🔒 🔒 🔒 🔒	+5
Oral language interventions	\$ \$ \$ \$ \$	🔒 🔒 🔒 🔒 🔒	+5
Outdoor adventure learning	\$ \$ \$ \$ \$	🔒 🔒 🔒 🔒 🔒	+4
Parental engagement	\$ \$ \$ \$ \$	🔒 🔒 🔒 🔒 🔒	+3

The Teaching and Learning Toolkit can be accessed in full, broken into school stages or mapped by 23 organisations to school improvement frameworks. For example, InclusionED is an organisation which translates the latest research on Autism into simple classroom practices. [InclusionED](#) have mapped the Toolkit approaches to their own practices along with detailed implementation guides.

The Teaching and Learning Toolkit Top 5

5. Early Years Interventions: + 5 months

[Early Years Interventions](#) refers to high-quality educational experiences and programs for children who are of pre-school age. Activities which develop pre-reading skills, early number concepts and non-verbal reasoning are the most effective. An early starting age (three years) and attendance of one year or more is also linked to increased benefits. However, it does come with an estimated cost of \$1,000 - \$2,000 per child for an intervention program and \$5,800 for one year of kindergarten.

4. Collaborative Learning: + 5 months

[Collaborate Learning](#) is a teaching strategy with over 40 years of systematic reviews and delivers an average of 5 additional months progress per student. Research suggests that the best results are achieved with up to four students of mixed ability working on a collective task that requires cooperation. The cost to implement collaborative learning is considered very low with high quality professional development estimated to cost as little as \$500 per teacher.

3. Reading Comprehension Strategies: + 6 months

Evidence-based [reading comprehension strategies](#) are a low-cost, high impact (+6 months on average) teaching approach based on extensive evidence. There is an abundance of approaches which include inferring meaning from context and using graphic or semantic organisers to name a few. The overall cost of implementation is low. However, teacher training is strongly linked to the effectiveness of this approach. Professional development will ensure teachers can confidently identify the appropriate text level, technique and materials to use.

2. Metacognition and self-regulation: + 7 months

Put simply, [metacognition and self-regulation](#) strategies help students to understand how they best learn. When high quality instruction allows students to plan, monitor and evaluate their own learning additional progress of up to 7 months can be made. The [substantial evidence](#) in support of this strategy make metacognition and self-regulation a worthy investment of time in the classroom. As with most of the Top 5 strategies the overall cost of implementation is low. The key consideration around cost should be for high quality professional development when necessary.

1. Feedback: + 8 months

[Feedback](#) which is specific, accurate and clear can have a significant effect on student learning outcomes with gains of up to 8 months reported. A considerable number of reviews and meta-analyses provide a moderately secure level of evidence which indicates that feedback is a highly effective teaching strategy. The overall cost of implementation is low however, it is crucial that schools consider the cost of Professional Development to ensure that feedback is of a high quality.

A Final Thought

It should be noted that [Phonics](#) achieved an average of 4 months additional progress on average. While it didn't make the top 5 in terms of additional months progress it is the only approach to achieve a 5/5 rating for evidence security with vast and substantial evidence to support its efficacy.

