

Lesson Study Protocol

This is a protocol for fostering robust team discussions of specific lessons or lesson sequences. Lesson Study gives teachers an opportunity to refine presentations and follow-on activities by providing a structured protocol for sharing, observation, feedback, and reflection.

Step 1: Introduction 1 Minute

The Facilitator opens the meeting, setting the focus for the week's lesson study by providing a brief overview of the lesson(s) under consideration and where they fall in the context of the curriculum.

Step 2: Viewing the Lesson 10 Minutes

The Presenter shares the Direct and Indirect Aim for the lesson and then presents the lesson while the team observes. Participants are encouraged to take notes.

Step 3: *What's Going on in This Lesson?* 5 Minutes

What did you see? Each participant takes a turn commenting on one thing that they noticed in the presentation. This should be a factual observation, not an opinion or judgment. If time and group size permit, a second set of observations can be made.

What do you want to know more about? Beginning with "I wonder..." each participant then takes a turn voicing something that they are wondering about or have a question about. Time allowing, a second turn can be taken. This isn't a time for answers or problem solving—just wondering.

Step 4: Presenter's Reflection 1 Minute

The Presenter reflects on the observations or wonderings they heard and shares one their own.

Step 5: Practice 20 Minutes

Participants practice the presented material exactly as it was presented by the presenting teacher, replicating every move even those that are unfamiliar.

Step 6: Reflections & Agreements 8 Minutes

The team reflects on the lesson as demonstrated and practiced, discussing how it is the same or different than the way they usually present it. From the conversation the Facilitator draws the team to find agreement on a unified way of presenting the material to children. The meeting closes with a greater understanding of how to introduce this material in the classroom and a renewed commitment to its use.

The Facilitator

The Facilitator is charged with keeping the meeting running smoothly. This entails:

- Keeping time
- Supporting discussion protocol (turn-taking, factual observations and wonderings, etc.)

The Presenter

The presenting teacher comes prepared to present one of the lessons in the series of the lessons being considered that week. All trained teachers (or teachers in training) take turns on a rotating basis.

Participants

All participants come with an open and curious mind to learn and to participate in enriching the discussion of Montessori materials and practice. The practice time is used to further develop facility with the materials and to assist others in doing so.

The Coach

At times, particularly as the process is launching, the Montessori Coach may assume the role of Facilitator. After a time, however, the Coach's role is to participate as a member of the group, and to note potential patterns in the challenges faced and questions posed by the team. The Coach also plays a significant role in creating the list of lessons to be covered based on classroom observations.