Primary Lesson Plan Template

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> *"Great primary lessons balance structure with flexibility—clear enough for you to follow, open enough for students to surprise you."*

At a Glance Planning Box

The Primary Lesson Flow

1. Hook/Warm-up (5-8 minutes)

Purpose: Activate prior knowledge and create curiosity

Effective Hook Ideas:

- **Real-world problem:** "The school store has 27 pencils. Mrs. Smith brings 35 more. Do we have enough for every student in Year 3?"
- **Quick demo:** Show magic trick, science experiment, or surprising fact
- **Movement activity:** Math facts dance, vocabulary actions, or stretch sequence
- **Mystery box/bag:** Objects related to today's learning
- **Question of the day:** Posted for students to discuss as they enter

Hook Planning Template:

```
Hook Activity: _____
Materials Needed: _____
Expected Student Responses: _____
Transition Statement: _____
```

Example Hook (Mathematics): *Show two piggy banks with play money visible* "Bank A has 27 pounds, Bank B has 35 pounds. If we combine them, how much money do we have altogether? Talk to your partner about how you'd figure this out."

2. Learning Intention & Success Criteria (3-5 minutes)

Purpose: Make learning transparent and give students ownership

Student-Friendly Formats:

- "Today we will learn..."
- "By the end of this lesson, you'll be able to..."
- "Success looks like..."
- "You'll know you've got it when..."

Success Criteria Examples:

- ✓ I can solve addition problems step by step
- ✓ I can explain when I need to regroup
- ✓ I can check my answer makes sense
- ✓ I can teach someone else my strategy

3. I Do - Teacher Modeling (8-12 minutes)

Purpose: Show clear thinking process and demonstrate skills

Modeling Checklist:

- ☐ Think aloud explicitly - show your mental process
- ☐ Use visual supports (board, manipulatives, diagrams)
- ☐ Address common misconceptions proactively
- ☐ Keep students passive but engaged (they watch and listen)
- ☐ Check for basic understanding with simple signals

Modeling Example (Addition with regrouping): "Watch me solve 27 + 35. First, I'll use my blocks to show 27..." *Think aloud through entire process, showing regrouping clearly*

"Let me try another one: 46 + 28. I notice I have more than 10 ones again, so I need to regroup..." *Repeat process with different numbers*

Common Modeling Mistakes to Avoid:

- Asking students to participate (save for "We Do")
- Going too fast through steps
- Assuming students see what you see

- Skipping the "why" behind each step

4. We Do - Guided Practice (12-18 minutes)

Purpose: Practice together with support and feedback

Guided Practice Strategies:

Strategy	How it Works	Best For
Think-Pair-Share	Individual thinking → partner discussion → class sharing	All subjects
Choral Response	Whole class answers together on signal	Math facts, vocabulary
Show Me	Students use whiteboards/manipulatives to show answers	Math, science concepts
Turn and Teach	One student explains to partner what we just learned	Checking understanding
Thumbs Check	Quick confidence check (thumbs up/down/sideways)	Monitoring understanding

Guided Practice Example: "Now let's try one together: 38 + 26. Everyone get your blocks ready... Show me 38 first... Good! Now what do we add? Show me 26... Now, let's see what happens when we combine them..."

Differentiation During Guided Practice:

- **Extra support:** Provide manipulatives, work with teacher aide
- **Challenge:** Ask "What if..." questions, multiple solution methods
- **ELL support:** Visual cues, partner support, key vocabulary displayed

5. You Do - Independent Practice (15-20 minutes)

Purpose: Apply learning independently to build confidence

Independent Practice Options:

- **Individual work:** Worksheets, problem sets, writing tasks
- **Partner activities:** Structured collaboration with defined roles
- **Choice boards:** Multiple ways to practice the same skill
- **Games:** Educational activities that reinforce learning
- **Creative application:** Projects, drawings, real-world problems

Independent Practice Planning:

```
Task Description: _____
Instructions (3 steps max):
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Success Criteria Reminder: _____
Support Available: _____
What I'll observe: _____
Early Finisher Activity: _____
```

Teacher Role During Independent Practice:

- Circulate purposefully, not randomly
- Take anecdotal notes for assessment
- Provide individual feedback and support
- Avoid re-teaching to whole class (save for closure)

6. Closure & Assessment (5-10 minutes)

Purpose: Consolidate learning and check understanding

Effective Exit Ticket Options:

Type	Example	Best For
3-2-1	3 things learned, 2 questions, 1 connection	All subjects
Problem of the Day	One problem using today's skill	Math, science
Quick Draw	Sketch main concept with labels	Science, social studies
Confidence Scale	Rate understanding 1-4 with evidence	Any subject
Teach Your Pet	Explain concept as if teaching pet at home	All subjects

Closure Example Questions:

- "What strategy helped you most today?"
- "When might you use this skill outside school?"
- "What was tricky about today's learning?"
- "How is today's learning connected to what we learned yesterday?"

Assessment Integration

Formative Assessment Techniques

Quick Checks (30 seconds - 2 minutes):

- Thumbs up/down for understanding
- Show fingers 1-5 for confidence level
- Hold up whiteboards with answers
- Traffic light cups (red/yellow/green)

Medium Checks (3-5 minutes):

- Exit tickets with 1-2 questions
- Turn and teach to partner
- Quick written explanation
- Draw and label diagram

Observation Focus Points:

- Who needs additional support?
- Who's ready for extension?
- What misconceptions are emerging?
- How engaged are students?

Using Assessment Data Immediately

During the lesson:

- Adjust pacing based on student responses
- Provide extra examples if confusion evident
- Offer additional challenges if mastery clear
- Re-teach in different way if needed

For next lesson:

- Plan intervention groups
- Adjust difficulty level
- Reteach specific concepts
- Celebrate growth and success

Differentiation Strategies

For Students Who Need Extra Support

Content modifications:

- Reduce number of problems/questions
- Provide worked examples
- Use concrete manipulatives longer
- Break tasks into smaller steps

Process modifications:

- Extended time for completion
- Partner support system
- Step-by-step visual guides
- Option to demonstrate understanding orally

Product modifications:

- Alternative ways to show learning
- Technology supports for creation
- Choice in final format
- Emphasis on understanding over speed

For Advanced Learners

Enrichment strategies:

- "What if" questions to extend thinking
- Teaching opportunities with peers
- Connection to other subject areas
- Independent research projects
- Multiple solution methods

Acceleration options:

- Moving to next concept when ready
- Leadership roles in group work
- Mentoring struggling classmates
- Self-directed learning time

For English Language Learners

Language support:

- Visual vocabulary cards
- Gestures and movement
- Home language connections when possible
- Peer translation support
- Focus on understanding over perfect English

Cultural responsiveness:

- Value diverse problem-solving methods
- Connect to students' cultural experiences
- Provide multiple examples from different contexts
- Encourage sharing of cultural knowledge

Time Management Tips

Pacing Strategies

- Use visual timers for each section
- Plan buffer time for transitions
- Have extension activities ready
- Know what you can cut if running behind

Transition Techniques

- Use consistent signals (chime, clapping pattern)
- Give 2-minute and 30-second warnings
- Practice routines regularly
- Make expectations clear

Backup Plans

- Have materials ready for different scenarios
- Prepare shorter/longer versions of activities
- Know which parts are essential vs. nice-to-have
- Keep engaging games ready for unexpected free time

Technology Integration Ideas

Low-tech options:

- Document camera for sharing student work
- Audio recordings of student explanations
- Digital timer and music for transitions
- Classroom camera for recording demonstrations

High-tech options:

- Interactive whiteboard activities
- Student response systems (Kahoot, Padlet)
- Digital manipulatives and simulations
- Video creation for student presentations

Sample Lesson Plans

Mathematics Example: Place Value (Year 2)

Objective: Students can identify the value of digits in 2-digit numbers

Hook (5 min): Mystery number game - "I'm thinking of a number with 3 tens and 7 ones..."

I Do (10 min): Use place value charts and blocks to show how 37 = 3 tens + 7 ones

We Do (15 min): Students use mini whiteboards to show place value for different numbers

You Do (15 min): Place value puzzles and games with partners

Closure (5 min): Exit ticket: "Draw 42 using tens and ones"

Science Example: Plant Parts (Year 1)

Objective: Students can name and describe the function of basic plant parts

Hook (6 min): Real plants and magnifying glasses for observation

I Do (8 min): Label plant diagram while explaining each part's job

We Do (16 min): Students examine real plants and identify parts together

You Do (12 min): Draw and label their own plant with partner support

Closure (8 min): "Teach your plant" - explain one part's job to a partner

English Example: Story Structure (Year 3)

Objective: Students can identify beginning, middle, and end in stories

Hook (5 min): Tell familiar story (Three Little Pigs) with dramatic pauses

I Do (10 min): Use story map to show clear beginning, middle, end

We Do (15 min): Read new short story together, stopping to identify parts

You Do (15 min): Students create story maps for independent reading books

Closure (5 min): Share one interesting middle event from their story

AI Assist Prompts for Lesson Planning

Content Generation

- "Generate 5 engaging hook activities for {{grade level}} {{subject}} lesson on {{topic}}"
- "Create three differentiated versions of this activity for different ability levels: {{paste activity}}"
- "Suggest real-world connections for teaching {{concept}} to {{grade level}} students"

Assessment Ideas

- "Create 5 exit ticket options for {{grade level}} {{subject}} lesson on {{topic}}"
- "Generate formative assessment questions that check understanding of {{concept}}"
- "Design a quick confidence check activity for {{specific skill}}"

Differentiation Support

- "Adapt this lesson for students who struggle with {{specific area}}: {{paste lesson outline}}"
- "Create extension activities for advanced learners in {{subject}} {{topic}}"
- "Suggest ELL supports for this lesson: {{paste lesson description}}"