

Classroom management observation tool

Deliberate pause

February 2025

Effective classroom management creates safe and supportive learning environments for all students. This practice resource is part of a suite of [observation tools](#) that complement the Australian Education Research Organisation (AERO)'s [foundational classroom management resources](#). These observation tools are designed for experienced teachers and school leaders to use with AERO's practice guide, [Supporting a Colleague with Refining their Classroom Management Practice](#).

With your colleague, you can use this tool to identify specific aspects of the skill they demonstrate, take notes on what you observe and use these to help identify strengths and areas for refinement.

Before the observation

It's important you take time before an observation to prepare well. This is essential to clarify objectives and gather relevant, accurate and useful information to support your colleague in identifying strengths and refining their practice. Preparation will also help you become familiar with this tool's format and content so it's easier to use during the observation.

Before using this tool:

Read AERO's practice guide, [Supporting a Colleague with Refining their Classroom Management Practice](#).

Follow step 1 – Build and maintain a collaborative relationship.

Follow step 2 – Decide on a specific practice or skill to observe and prepare for the observation.

Before observing:

Read AERO's [Deliberate Pause](#) skill resource to familiarise yourself with the elements for success.

Read the information in this observation tool.

Discuss with your colleague what will be observed, how long the observation will be and how evidence will be collected.

During the observation

Observe your colleague and tick the boxes for any actions observed. To support the feedback discussion, factually record what your colleague says and does at key moments, as well as how students respond.

The teacher deliberately pauses to gain all students' attention

The teacher:	Observation notes
sustains a deliberate period of silence long enough to gain all students' attention	
combines this with <u>scanning</u> for students' responses	
follows this with another strategy if the deliberate pause didn't gain all students' attention.	

The teacher deliberately pauses to emphasise a point

The teacher:	Observation notes
sustains a deliberate period of silence long enough to emphasise a point	
combines this with <u>scanning</u> for students' responses	
follows this with another strategy if the deliberate pause didn't emphasise a point.	

The teacher deliberately pauses to allow time for students to process information or respond

The teacher:	Observation notes
sustains a deliberate period of silence, long enough to allow time for students to process information, follow a direction or correct disengaged or disruptive behaviours	
combines this with <u>scanning</u> for students' responses	
follows this with another strategy if the deliberate pause doesn't achieve the desired outcome.	

After the observation

Follow step 3 – Conduct a feedback session in our practice guide, [Supporting a Colleague with Refining their Classroom Management Practice](#).

Before the feedback session, you may want to document:

What did they do well that you can praise? What have they refined since your previous feedback session (if relevant)?

Before or during the feedback session, you may want to document:

What is their next priority to focus on? Is it a single step of a practice, a specific skill or an element of a skill? Within the practice step or skill, what specifically needs refinement? What evidence is there to support this?

During the feedback session:

Model for your colleague, then support them to plan and rehearse the practice step, skill or skill element they will focus on refining. You may want to document:

When will they next use the refined skill or step of a classroom management practice?

What key elements of the refined skill or step will they make sure they include?

How will they know if they've been successful in refining their practice?

When is a suitable time to re-observe the refined step or skill?