

# WHAT DOES AN INTERVENTION CYCLE LOOK LIKE?

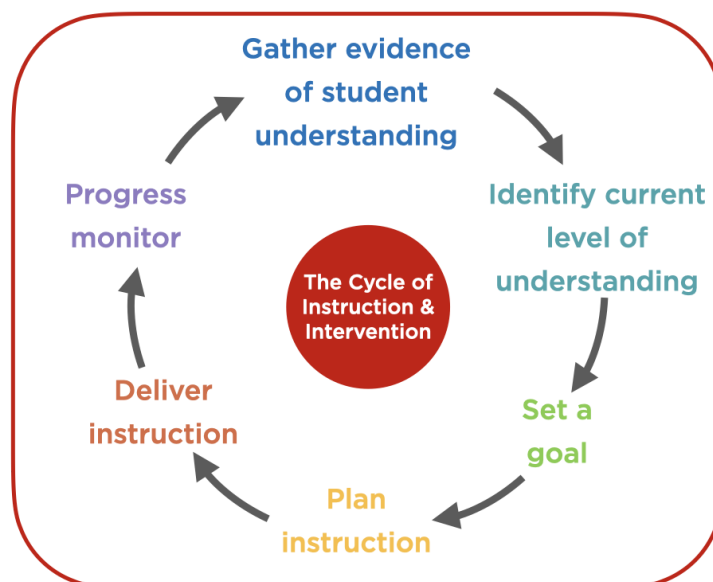
By: Katie Jacobsen

All educators can frame the process of their work with students as a cycle. All Learners Network (ALN) particularly recommends this specific framing to special educators and interventionists, or any teacher working with students in small groups.

Using a cycle of instruction provides both educators and students a structured process for reflecting on growth and moving forward in math understanding.

It actually functions as a rapid cycle of inquiry, where we are seeking information about our students' thinking, planning responsive instruction, and monitoring growth in a continuous cycle.

The intervention cycle looks like this:



As we go through the cycle, we will think of it in the context of providing intervention or Tier 2 small group instruction. You can also apply this model more generally to your whole group classroom teaching!

First, we gather evidence of student understanding. This often comes from formative assessments or other student work samples and teacher observations. Often we use student interviews to dig deeper. This helps us identify what students CAN do - their current level of understanding. When that evidence indicates that there is some difficulty or misconception present, it is time to continue forward in the cycle.

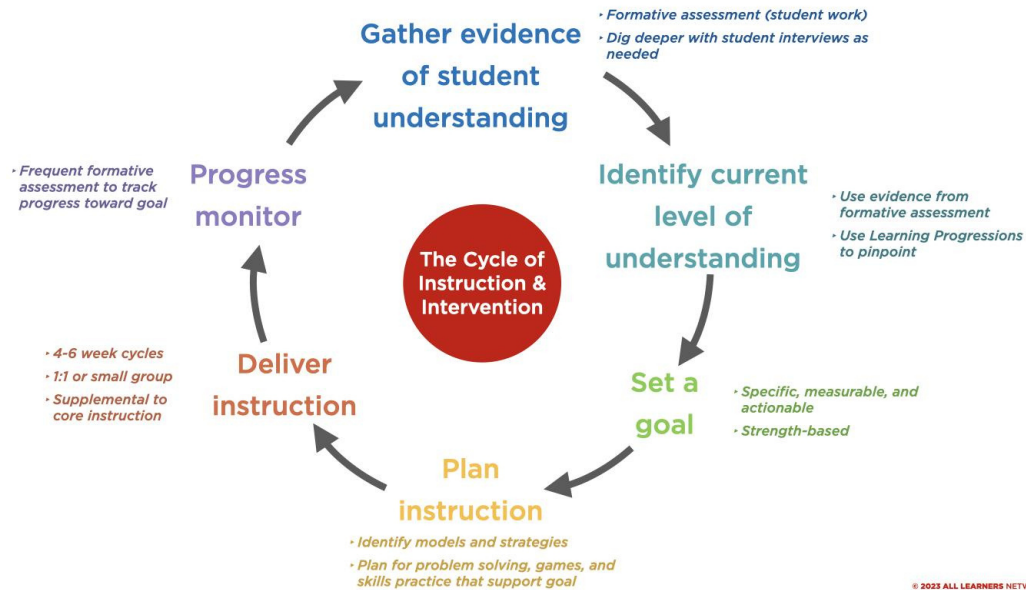
Using the evidence gathered through your formative assessments, you can use the High Leverage Concept (HLC) Learning Progressions to identify what the student CAN do and then find the next step along the progression. This allows you to set a specific, measurable, and actionable goal and plan for intervention instruction and activities. We always aim to set strength-based goals, focusing on what a student can do and building from there. In this model, we are talking about small learning targets that will lead to a bigger overall goal, such as the High Leverage Concept for that grade level or an Individualized Education Program (IEP) goal. To learn more about the importance of setting small learning targets or objectives nested inside larger goals, check out this [blog post](#).

After identifying a goal or mini-target, you can use the models and strategies identified in the HLC maps and HLC Learning Progressions to plan instructional activities that include problem-solving, games, and skills practice that will help move students toward that goal.

Then the intervention takes place! It can be helpful to think of these cycles in 4-6 week chunks. Instruction may take place in a 1:1 setting or small group. This should not take place during core instruction, but rather during a dedicated intervention block and/or during the small group time in Math Menu.

As you go through your intervention work, it is important to frequently monitor student progress toward their goal. Just like in your initial formative assessment, your progress monitoring should help you identify what the student CAN do, how they are growing, and where they need to go next.





As your progress monitoring leads to additional evidence of student understanding, you can begin the cycle again, using evidence of student understanding to set new goals and move students forward along the HLC Learning Progression.

It is important to think of this work as a cycle rather than a linear process. Intervention isn't something that just gets a student from point A to point B. We don't want to set a goal for the year and just work toward it broadly, hoping that an end of year assessment will show proficiency. Even when we have a larger goal, like an IEP goal, we need to set smaller goals along the way to work through this cycle of continual gathering of evidence, exploring theories, instruction, and progress monitoring.

**Additive Reasoning**

**Grade Two HLC**

Use place value understanding to add and subtract numbers accurately, flexibly, efficiently, and strategically within 1,000 (in context and in equations) (NO standard algorithm)

September —————> **Grade Two Learning Progressions** —————> June

Students must use models to build understanding of the HLC and interact with a variety of contexts.

**Rote Oral Count Sequence** (rote counting from 1; rote counting from any start number)

Teachers need to purposefully choose a variety of number ranges including opportunities to practice teen numbers, crossing decades, and centuries. This information is often best collected in student interviews checking on clusters of 5 numbers at various starting points.

Counts Forward (FWD) and Backward (BWD) within the range 1-120 starting at any number.	Counts FWD and BWD within the range 1-220 starting at any number	Counts FWD and BWD within the range 1-500 starting at any number	Counts FWD and BWD within the range 1-1000 starting at any number
Skip counts FWD and BWD by 10s starting at any number within the range 1-120	Skip counts FWD and BWD by 10s on decade within the range 1-1000	Skip counts FWD and BWD by 10s starting at any number within the range 1-500	Skip counts FWD and BWD by 10s starting at any number within the range 1-1000
Skip counts FWD and BWD by 100s starting on century within the range 1-1000		Skip counts FWD and BWD by 100s starting at any number within the range 1-1000	

**Ordering & Magnitude**

Uses place value understanding to compare 2-digit numbers.

65 is greater than 56. 65 has 1 more ten.

56 is less than 65. 56 has 1 fewer ten.

Uses place value understanding to compare 3-digit numbers.

324 is greater than 243. 324 has 1 more hundred.

243 is less than 342. 243 has 1 fewer hundred.

