PDSA's

The PDSA cycle is a method for rapidly testing a change - by planning it, trying it, observing the results, and acting on what is learned. This is a scientific method used for action-oriented learning. After changes are thoroughly tested, PDSA cycles can be used to implement or spread change. The key principle behind the PDSA cycle is to test on a small scale and test quickly. The PDSA philosophy is to design a small test with limited impact that can be conducted quickly (days if not hours!) to work out unanticipated "bugs". Repeated rapid small tests and the learning's gleaned build a process ready for implementation that is far more likely to succeed.

Parts of the PDSA cycle

Plan – In this phase, your objectives are defined and your team makes predictions about what will happen, and why it will happen. Your team will answer the following questions:
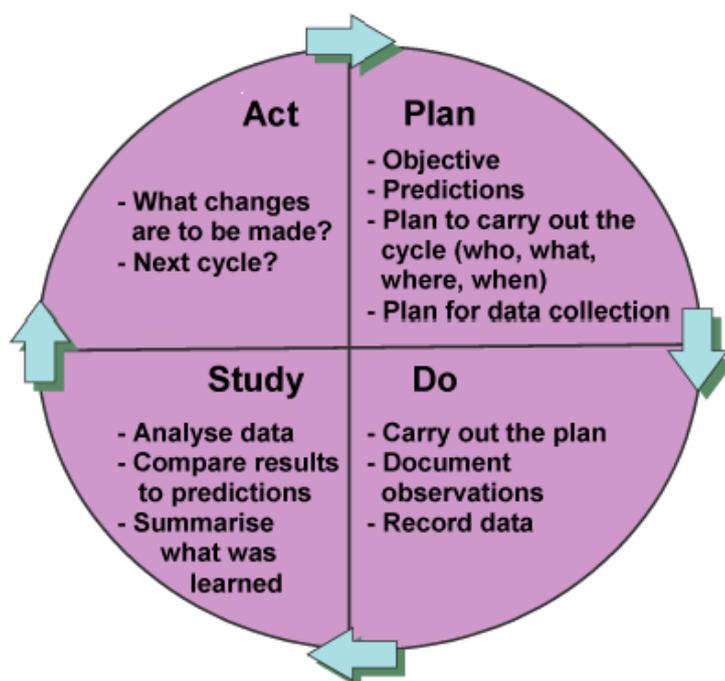
- What exactly will you do?
- Who will carry out the plan?
- When will it take place?
- Where?
- What data/information will you collect to know whether there is an improvement?

Do – In this phase, your team will carry out the plan and collect the data. This will include documenting experiences, problems, and surprises that occur during this test cycle.

Study – In this phase, your team will analyze the test cycle and reflect on what you have learned. You will compare results with the predictions made in the planning stage, and draw conclusions based on the collected data.

Act - In this last phase, your team will decide if there are any refinements or modifications needed to the change you have tried. This may lead to additional test cycles, which starts the process all over again with *Plan.*

The PDSA Cycle for Improvement

Act
- What changes are to be made?
- Next cycle?

Plan
- Objective
- Predictions
- Plan to carry out the cycle (who, what, where, when)
- Plan for data collection

Study
- Analyse data
- Compare results to predictions
- Summarise what was learned

Do
- Carry out the plan
- Document observations
- Record data

Model for Improvement – Template

Step 1. The 3 Fundamental Questions

1. What are we trying to accomplish?

(By answering this question you will develop your goal for improvement)

2. How will we know that a change is an improvement?

(By answering this question you will develop measures to track the achievement of your goal)

3. What changes can we make that can lead to an improvement? – list your ideas for change

(By answering this question you will develop the ideas you would like to test to achieve your goal)

Idea 1

Idea 2

Idea 3

PDSA Template

Please complete this template for each PDSA cycle you undertake.

Idea	*Describe the idea you are testing: refer to the 3rd fundamental question, 'What are we trying to accomplish?*
Plan	*What, who, when, where, predictions & data to be collected.*
Do	*Was the plan executed? Document any unexpected events or problems.*
Study	*Record, analyse and reflect on the results.*
Act	*What will you take forward from this cycle? (next step / next PDSA cycle)*