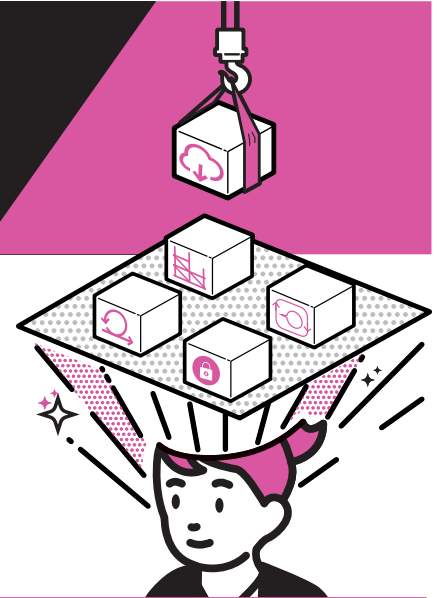


# Five Ways To: Build Confidence

Learning can sometimes be overwhelming, especially for students who lack confidence. More often than not, the confident students dominate lessons; they are asked more questions, complete more activities and get more time to rehearse. The students who need the most practice – those lacking confidence – are sometimes not getting it.



There's a lot to learn! Sometimes it feels overwhelming – especially to students with the least confidence; the weakest knowledge; the most tentative grasp of the ideas. Something I observe fairly often – and is worth reflecting on in your own lessons – is that the students with the most confidence dominate lessons.



## FIVE WAYS TO BUILD CONFIDENCE

1 Consolidate. Consolidate. Consolidate.

2 Explicit Rehearsal

3 Repeated Short Feedback Loops

4 Scaffold the details

5 Retrieval with Agency



### CONSOLIDATE. CONSOLIDATE. CONSOLIDATE

Go over content repeatedly to give students the chance to over-learn and consolidate. Take time to summarise the key points, and ask students to rehearse them individually and with a peer. When a student shares a good answer, check other students' understanding of it.



### EXPLICIT REHEARSAL

Give all students the time to rehearse the knowledge you teach. Make sure all students use the new phrases, can clarify a new method, outline the steps in an argument, explain a key metaphor in a poem and so on. Inclusive questioning and pair talk provide more rehearsal and opportunities to build confidence.



### REPEATED SHORT FEEDBACK LOOPS

Try creating short tasks with the explicit aim of creating short feedback and improvement loops. These loops build students' confidence as students see how to improve and produce something of quality rather than a series of mediocre things. Try to shorten the distance between the task and giving feedback.



### SCAFFOLD THE DETAILS

Students who struggle to offer detailed answers verbally or in writing find it difficult to organise their ideas. Use scaffolds to help students structure their verbal and written responses. For example, *On one hand, an advantage of tourists visiting Snowdon is that... On the other hand, a disadvantage is...*



### RETRIEVAL WITH AGENCY

Quizzing can boost students' confidence if they have success. Try giving students study resources and advance notice of when and what you will be quizzing. For students who struggle to form study habits, why not give them the questions and answers in advance to rehearse?