

Paper Plane Activity

Question 1 What are we trying to accomplish?

Design and create a paper plane to fly at least 5 metres within the next 20 minutes

Question 2 How do we know that a change is an improvement?

We will measure the distance that our paper plane can fly and have a plane that will fly at least 5 metres

Question 3 What changes can we make that will result in an improvement?

Idea 1: Develop multiple models

Idea 2: Test the various planes to see how far they fly

Idea 3: Work out which ones fly the best and share the design with others

PDSA Cycle – Idea 1

Plan:

What	Develop multiple models of planes
Who	Everyone
When	Now
Where	In this room
Predictions	Somebody's design will be really good
Data Collected	Number of designs made -

Do: Done as planned. Any observations to record?

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Study: 3 different designs selected, one looks really good as predicted

Act: Test the various planes to see how far they fly

PDSA Cycle – Idea 2

Plan:

What	Test the various planes to see if one flies more than 5 metres
Who
When	Now
Where	In this room
Predictions's (name) plane will fly at least 5 metres
Data Collected	Measure distance of each plane

Do: Done as planned. Any observations to record?

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Study:

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Act: Share the design of the plane/s that flew >5m with others

Paper Plane Activity

PDSA Cycle – Idea 3

Plan:

What Share the design of the plane/s that flew >5m with others
Who
When Now
Where In this room
Predictions There will be a number of planes that flew >5m. We will identify additional designs that work well.
Data Collected

Do: Done as planned. Any observations to record?

Study:

Act:

Revisit Goal – What are we trying to accomplish?

Design and create a paper plane to fly at least 5 metres

Notes:

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Tips

- Don't think too big
- Size matters; make it manageable and realistic, break down big changes into less-than-elephant sized pieces
- Don't be too vague
- Need some detail, although to a practical, not obsessive, level
- Don't forget to measure
- Qualitative data is important, but best if complemented by quantitative
- ACT on the results
- In practice more than 1 PDSA can be run at a time as long as they are small and simple