

# *Developing an understanding of language proficiencies in teacher education programmes*

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In short-term initial teacher training courses the learning curve is high to say the least. Teachers-in-training are working hard to understand the basics of lesson planning, teaching and reflecting while at the same time formulating their personal teaching identity. Any amount of independence that can be gained through self-guided lesson planning is a huge step for a new teacher in terms of building confidence and forming personalized teaching beliefs. Striving to imbue my new teachers with this sense of independence is what originally led to the incorporation of the GSE into my pre-service TESOL Certificate course.

In my TESOL Certificate course, we use the GSE to introduce the concept of language proficiencies in a workshop in the first week of the course. After this, the GSE teacher toolkit provides the teachers-in-training with an easy to navigate guide of target language that is level appropriate for their classrooms. The toolkit, in conjunction with the practicum students' learning needs, is then used by the novice teachers in the course for independent lesson planning.

This workshop, a demo of the workshop I use to introduce language proficiencies will be experienced. We will then look at how trainees are encouraged to employ the toolkit to support independent lesson planning. After this, data will be presented that affirms that the GSE toolkit has a positive affect on trainees confidence planning for students at various language proficiencies. The workshop will conclude with a chance for participants to reflect on the use of the GSE in pre-service teacher training and apply what has been discussed to their own training contexts.

## Key takeaways

- Introducing pre-service teachers-in-training to the GSE in the first week of the course, gives them a working idea of English Language learners capabilities in the ESL classroom.
- Using the GSE teacher toolkit as support in independent lesson planning builds pre-service trainees' confidence and affords them greater independence during their training.
- At the end of the training, the GSE toolkit was viewed as helpful and useful by the pre-service trainees.

## Key links

- <https://www.pearsonelt.com/about/gse.html>
- <https://www.english.com/blog/global-scale-of-english-revolutionised>
- <https://www.pearsonelt.com/professional-development/events/iatefl.html>

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