Co.De.

Module 6 - Co-design learning through Mentoring, Critical Friends and Shadowin

Unit 6.3 – Example Scenarios

https://code-eduproject.eu @co-deeducation @Co.Deeducationeu

Co-funded by the European Union

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.
Project Number: 2023-1-ES01-KA220-SCH-000154536

Table Of Contents

1 Scenario 1 – Primary

2 Scenario 2 – Secondary Education

3 Scenario 3 – Whole-school

4 Scenario 4 - Improving Classroom Management

4 Design Your Own Co-design Learning Scenario

Co-funded by
the European Union

Co.De.

Scenario 1 – Primary Education

Co-designing a Project-Based Learning unit through mentoring and critical friends

- **Context:** Grade 5 – Project on renewable energy
- **Purpose:** Improve alignment between activities, assessment, and inclusion
- **Process:**

1. Mentoring session to define goals and success indicators
2. Critical friend uses a tuning protocol to review the learning design
3. The teacher revises the lesson plan
4. Follow-up mentoring session after classroom implementation

Co-funded by the European Union

Co.De.

Scenario 2 – Secondary Education

Structured shadowing to improve formative feedback

- **Context:** Lower secondary – low student participation
- **Purpose:** Improve formative feedback strategies
- **Process:**

1. Pre-shadowing: define focus and observation criteria
2. Shadowing: observe a colleague's lesson and collect evidence
3. Post-shadowing: reflective dialogue and identification of small changes to test

Co-funded by the European Union

Co.De.

Scenario 3 – Whole-school approach

Critical Friends group for inclusive education

- **Context:** Mixed primary–secondary teaching team
- **Purpose:** Improve inclusive classroom practices
- **Process:**

1. Small group of teachers meets regularly
2. One teacher presents a dilemma or artefact
3. Group uses structured dialogue to support reflection and improvement

Co-funded by the European Union

Co.De.

Scenario 4 – Improving Classroom Management

Shadowing teachers

- **Context:** A mid-career teacher is struggling with student engagement and needs to refine their classroom management techniques.

- **Purpose:** Improve alignment between activities, assessment, and inclusion

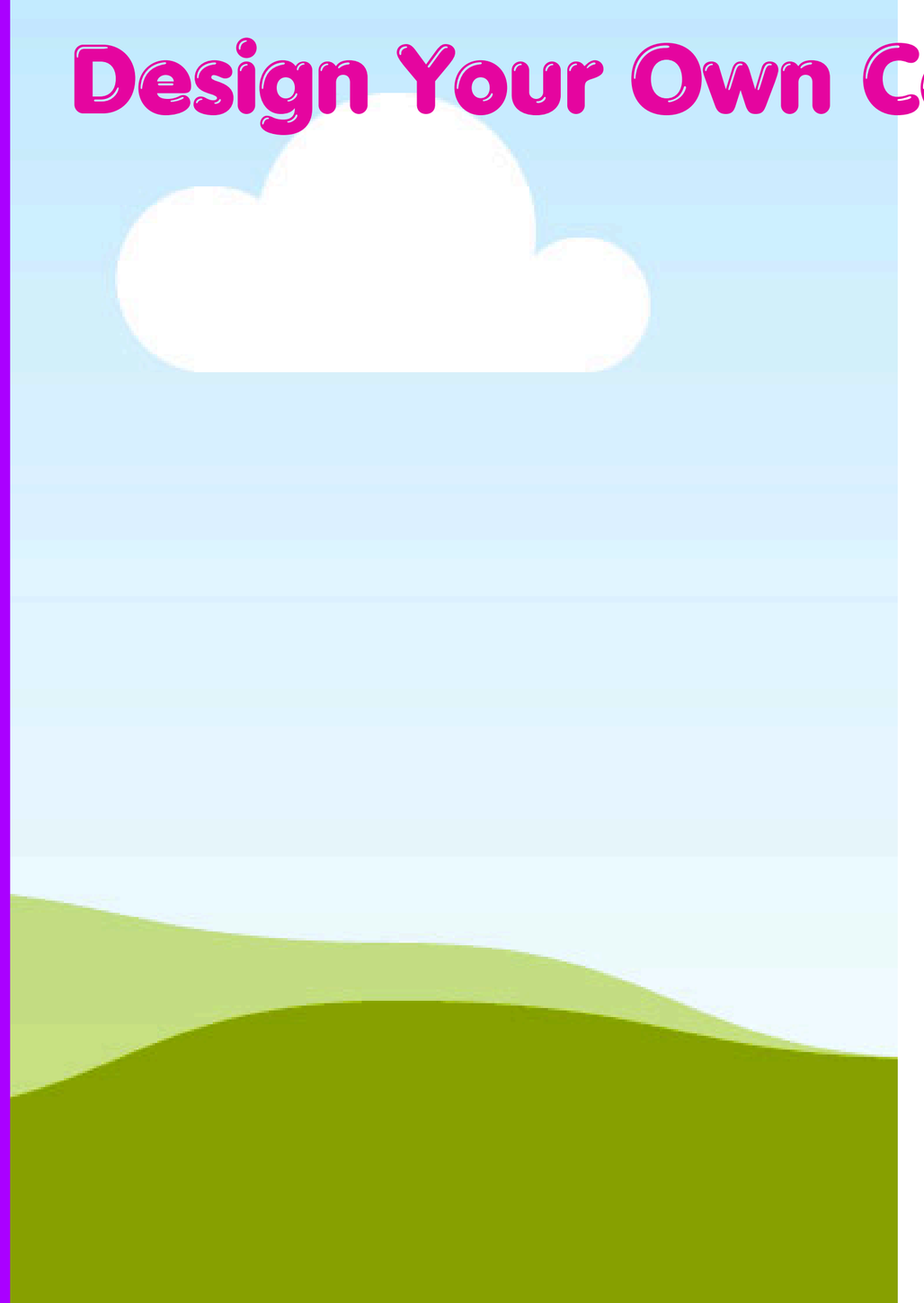
- **Process:**

1. Shadowing: A peer (Shadow) observes the teacher's class for several sessions, focusing specifically on non-verbal cues, transition times, and use of instructional time. The Shadow collects objective data (e.g., time spent on transitions, number of positive/negative reinforcements).
2. •Mentoring: The Shadow (acting as a temporary Mentor) presents the objective data and works with the teacher to set specific, measurable goals for improvement.
3. •Critical Friends: The teacher presents a revised classroom management plan (not the practice itself) to a Critical Friends group for feedback on its clarity, feasibility, and alignment with school policy.
4. •Outcome: Data-driven, targeted improvements to classroom management, leading to increased student engagement and a more productive learning environment.

Co-funded by the European Union

Co.De.

Design Your Own Co-design Learning Scenario



1

Step 1 – Define your context

- Educational level (primary / secondary)
- Subject or learning area
- Student profile (needs, diversity, challenges)

2

Step 2 – Identify a teaching challenge

- What aspect of your teaching would you like to improve?

3

Step 3 – Choose your support approach

Select one or more:

- □ Mentoring
- □ Critical friend
- □ Shadowing

4

Step 4 – Plan the co-design process

- What will be co-designed? (lesson, project, assessment tool…)
- Who will be involved? (mentor, colleague, team)
- What evidence will you use? (lesson plan, student work, observation notes)

5

Step 5 – Reflection & next steps

- What do you expect to improve?
- How will you know it worked?
- What is your next small action?

Co.De.

References

- Critical Friends protocols (Costa & Kallick; EU Critical Friend Approach)
- Mentoring frameworks (OPM; MENTOR Toolkit)
- Structured shadowing models (Emerald Insight; SAGE Journals)

Co-funded by
the European Union

Co.De.

You have completed Unit 6.3

https://code-eduproject.eu @co-deeducation @Co.Deeducationeu

Co-funded by the European Union

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.
Project Number: 2023-1-ES01-KA220-SCH-000154536

Co.De.