PDSA cycles are fundamental to the work of Implementation Teams with the intentional use of data for decision-making. Implementation Teams use PDSA Cycles to help them make meaningful changes, alleviate barriers, and achieve expected outcomes. Many of us engage informally in these cycles as we think through and test out hypotheses or go about improving our work and lives. We often start by getting clear about what we want to do; then we make a plan (PLAN), engage in behavior as planned (DO), evaluate (STUDY) how effective our behavior was, then we make more plans based on how well we did (ACT). In a team setting, these roles and functions may be performed by different team members. This activity is designed to help you understand your PDSA strengths, recognize strengths in others, and identify potential team gaps.

# Option 1: Individual Activity

Review the following statements. Which set best describes you? Which set least describes you? What type of person or persons might you need to partner with to work through an entire Plan-Do-Study-Act-Cycle? What skills might you improve on?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **PDSA Skill Set** | | **Best Describes Me** | **Least Describes Me** |
| **Plan** | I am good at identifying barriers and challenges. I use data whenever possible.  I enjoy analyzing processes and creating steps and plans for improvement. |  |  |
| **Do** | I am most comfortable using an existing plan. I enjoy documenting work and recording data.  I enjoy doing direct service work (i.e., deliver the program or practice to a student or client). |  |  |
| **Study** | I mostly enjoy analyzing data and evaluating performance.  I am most comfortable using measures identified during the planning phase to assess and track program progress. |  |  |
| **Act** | I enjoy analyzing study results and making recommendations for new courses of action. |  |  |

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# Option 2: Team Activity

First, as individuals, go through individual activity above (e.g., describe yourself).

Then go through the activity from a team perspective. Which set best describes your team? Which set least describes your team? Are there any gaps that need to be filled on the team?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **PDSA Skill Set** | | **Best Describes our Team** | **Least Describes our Team** |
| **Plan** | We have strengths in identifying barriers and challenges.  We use data whenever possible.  We enjoy analyzing processes and creating steps and plans for improvement. |  |  |
| **Do** | We are most comfortable using an existing plan. We enjoy documenting work and recording data.  We enjoy doing the direct service work (i.e., deliver the program or practice to a student or client). |  |  |
| **Study** | We mostly enjoy analyzing data and evaluating performance.  We are most comfortable using measures identified during the planning phase to assess and track program progress. |  |  |
| **Act** | We enjoy analyzing study results and making recommendations for new courses of action. |  |  |

# Team Gaps/Room for Improvement: