

Open School

Video Activity: How can Mr. Potato Head teach someone about PDSA cycles?

<http://www.ihl.org/education/IHIOpenSchool/resources/Pages/Activities/WilliamsPotatoHead.aspx>

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Facilitator Instructions

- Review the learning objectives and description with your group.
- Watch the [video](#) together (1 min 56 sec).
- As a group, discuss your reactions to the video, using the discussion questions as a guide.

Learning Objectives

At the end of this activity, you will be able to:

- Describe how assembling a Mr. Potato Head with a team can help teach the value of iterative tests of change.

Description

In this IHI Open School Short, Improvement Advisor David Williams explains the genesis of the Mr. Potato Head exercise he created to teach audiences all over the world about PDSA cycles.

Related IHI Open School Online Courses

- [QI 102: The Model for Improvement: Your Engine for Change](#)
- [QI 104: The Life Cycle of a Quality Improvement Project](#)
- [QI 106: Mastering PDSA Cycles and Run Charts](#)

Key Topics

Improvement Capability; Methods and Models; Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA); Model for Improvement; Systems Thinking; Teamwork;

Facilitator, show [the video on this page](#). For your group's discussion after the video, feel free to adjust these questions and/or add your own.

Discussion Questions

1. Why is assembling something such as a Mr. Potato Head doll with a team a valuable way to learn about iterative tests of change?
2. Why is measurement a critical component of PDSA cycles?
3. Have you ever played David Williams' Mr. Potato Head PDSA exercise or another quality improvement game? Did you find it effective? Why or why not?