Effective Group Instruction and Direct Instruction

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Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network

PaTTAN's Mission

The mission of the Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN) is to support the efforts and initiatives of the Bureau of Special Education, and to build the capacity of local educational agencies to serve students who receive special education services. PDE's Commitment to Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)

Our goal for each child is to ensure Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams begin with the general education setting with the use of Supplementary Aids and Services before considering a more restrictive environment.



direct instruction

- Systematic approach to instruction correlated with high levels of student performance.
- Students will learn if we teach essential skills in the most effective and efficient manner possible; focus is placed on explicit and systematic teacher-led instruction. (Carnine, Silbert, Kame'enui, & Tarver, 2004)

Some Notes on Effective Instruction:

- Instructional variables relating teacher behavior and classroom organization to high levels of student performance (explicit instruction):
 - Highly structured with focus on instructional content
 - Clear goals selected and controlled by teachers
 - Adequate range of examples and non-examples
 - Sufficient time allocated for instruction
 - Continuous instruction
 - Skills sequenced from easiest to hardest
 - High rates of correct student responding
 - Immediate performance feedback (reinforcement)
 - Materials at appropriate instructional level
 - Appropriate pacing of lesson.

Rosenshine 2012

Some Notes on Effective Instruction:

- Begin lesson with review of previous learning
- Present new material in small steps
- Provide models
- Guide student practice
- Use clear and concise language
- Provide many opportunities for students to practice new information
- Monitor student learning/responding
- Get high success rate
- Provide scaffolds for difficult tasks
- Require and monitor independent practice

Rosenshine 2012



- Seating arrangement, teacher can observe responding
- Keep all students within "touching distance"
- Place lowest performers closer
- Break "cliques"
- Introduce rules that the group is to follow right from the start
- Get into the lesson quickly
- Present each task until children are firm (responding correctly and with little hesitation)
- Use clear teaching signals
- Use quick pace and group responses
- Use of individual turns as a tactical strategy
- Reinforce good performance (motivation is key!!!): Praise should be specific and relevant to the task at hand
- Specific correction strategies for non-attending, non-responding and signal violations, response errors

Engleman 1995







- Trial-and –error learning
- Discovery
- Exploration
- Facilitated learning
- Teacher assisted rather than directly taught.



- 1966: Bereiter and Engelmann publish Teaching Disadvantaged Children in the Preschool.
- 1967: Engelmann and Becker invited by the Office of Education to develop a program appropriate from K-3, which resulted in the Direct Instruction Model being selected for the Project Follow Through study.
- 1968: DISTAR was published.
- Programed has broadened to other areas of application (literary analysis, logic, chemistry, critical reading, geometry, and social studies).
- Project Follow Through: Experimental phase from 1968-1976. Funding for service program discontinued in 1995.

Project Follow-Through

Background:

- Largest educational study in U. S. history
- Took place from 1968 to 1976
- Examined low-income, at-risk students
- 75,000 students in 170 communities were involved
- Students participated from K 3
- Examined effectiveness of 9 educational methods across 3 categories
 - Basic Skills Models
 - Cognitive/Conceptual Models
 - Affective Skills models

Adams, G. L., & Engelmann, S. (1996). *Research on Direct Instruction: 25 years beyond DISTAR*. Seattle, WA: Educational Achievement Systems.

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- Direct Instruction is one of three models (out of 29) with "strongest evidence for effectiveness."
 - Direct Instruction had "statistically significant and positive achievement effects based on evidence from studies using comparison groups or from third-party comparison designs." (p. 29)

DI Philosophy

- The DI philosophy holds that the single most decisive factor in student's performance is the quality of instruction they receive from their teachers. This philosophy is based on certain principles:
 - 1. Learning is a behavioral process that can be observed and directly measured.
 - 2. All children can learn when taught correctly, regardless of past history.
 - 3. All teachers can be successful, given effective teaching materials and presentation techniques.

Three Main Components of Direct Instruction Programs

- Program Design
- Instructional Organization
- Teaching Techniques/Student Teacher Interactions

Main Components of Direct Instruction: Program design

1. Analysis of content matter and identification of organizing ideas and generalizable strategies to enable more learning in less time

- 2. Clear communication is designed:
 - Wording Principle: use wording that is similar across all items so students can focus on the details of instruction (minimizes distractions and confusion likely caused by variation in teacher language).
 - **The setup Principle:** Examples and non-examples share the greatest possible number of irrelevant features.
 - **The Difference Principle:** Non-examples shown are similar to one another and to the examples except in the critical feature and the difference of the non-example is just enough to change the positive example to a negative example.
 - The sameness Principle: Show the range of variation (full range of positive examples and limit of variation shown by negative examples).
 - **Testing Principle:** Test for new examples and non-examples to test for generalization.









Main Components of Direct Instruction: Program Design

- 3. Instructional formats are designed to structure the student-teacher interactions: clear and concise and specify the way teachers will present each example.
- 4. Skills sequenced to maximize success and minimize confusion: emphasis on teaching skills that will allow students to be successful at strategies they will learn later on.
- 5. Topics and objectives are organized into tracks to allow for systematic skill development and support cumulative review and application
- 6. Provides opportunities for guided practice and cumulative review
- 7. Incorporates continuous assessment and management













Main Components of Direct Instruction: Teaching Interactions

- I. Active student participation
- 2. Group unison responding
- 3. Signals
- 4. Pacing
- 5. Teaching to mastery
- 6. Correction procedures
- 7. Motivation

Set-Up for Successful Teacher-Student Interactions

- Clear expectations (rules and routines)
- Materials organization
- Seating
 - Assign seating
 - Lower performers closest to teacher
 - All students can see the teacher/materials
 - Teacher can see all students in the group
 - Teacher can see independent workers



Basic Teaching Template: Instructional Format Model-Lead-Test-Verify

Frame: The teacher states the learning task at hand.

Model: The teacher provides the expected response verbally or through demonstration. If needed, the teacher repeats the model to make sure all students heard or saw it.

Lead: The teacher and students respond together—several times if needed to ensure that all students practice responding correctly with teacher.

Test/Check: Students perform the task independently, several times if needed to do it correctly.

Verification: The teacher provides specific praise—stating what the students learned.

		m	man
Model	Teacher	"This letter makes the sound /mmm/"	"My turn to sound out this word. Mammaannn"
Lead	Teacher and Students	"Say it with me, /mmm/"	"Sound it out with me, mmmaaannn"
Test	Students	"What sound?"	"All by yourselves, sound it out."
Verify	Teacher	"Yes, /mmm/"	"Yes, mmmaaannn"

Signals

- Cues that are used to control the timing of students' responses.
- 2 types:
 - Visual:
 - Used when students are looking at the teacher, at the board, or at the a presentation book.
 - The teacher signals the students by making some type of hand motion.
 - Auditory:
 - Used when students are looking at their own text to read word lists, stories, and skill exercises.

Purpose of using signals:

- Increases the likelihood of ALL students initiating a response.
- Allows ALL students to practice the task.
- Allows the instructor to monitor every student.
- Allows the instructor to hear incorrect responses and correct them immediately.







DI Curricula Available

DI Curricula Available

- All commercially available DI programs are published and developed by the Scientific Research Associates (SRA), a part of MCGraw-Hill School Education. (https://www.mheonline.com/segment/view/1/3)
- Reminder: originally designed for instruction within general education setting BUT can be used with special education students in small groups or individually

DI Curricula Available

Reading Programs

- Curriculum-based assessment and fluency system that monitors student performance
- Phonics-based program to teach decoding and comprehension skills

DI Curricula Available: Reading

Reading Mastery

- Use of orthography in beginning levels
- Three versions: Classic, Plus & Signature Edition
- Reading Mastery Classic
 - Goal is to bring students up to grade level by end of first grade
 - Two Levels Kindergarten & Grade I
 - Fast Cycle available presents contents of both level in one school year



- Reading Mastery Plus (no longer available but some schools have this)
 - Comprehensive K-6 core reading program
 - Programming combines lessons from the following: Reading Mastery Classic Level I & II, Reading Mastery Level III-IV, Language for Learning, Language for Thinking, and Reasoning and Writing.
 - Not as much repetition in this program



DI Curricula Available: Reading

• Horizons

- Uses traditional orthography other types of prompts are used (i.e., underlines and different colored text)
- NOT appropriate for the at-risk student with little language or literacy knowledge.
- Student must demonstrate most letter names and fluently follow instructions.
- Four levels \rightarrow A, B, A/B, and C/D
- Grade I-4th







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Pictures-Actions			-	_	_													
Pronouns																		
Actions-Tense		-		_	_		_											
Tense-Pictures				_	_		-		-									
Actions-Review		-		_	_													
Descriptions of Objects							-				+	+					-	
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Identity Statements	_			_	_	_	-			_	-	_	_				_	
Common Objects	_	-				_	-			_	-	_	_			_	_	
Missing Objects	_				_		_			-	-	_					_	
Plurals				_					_	-	-	_						
Opposites																		
Comparatives						_					_							
Information and Background Knowledge																		
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Part/Whole									-		-	_		-	-	_		
Opposites										+	-			-	+	-		
Plurals								-			+				-	_	-	
Shapes											-	_	_	-	+		-	
Classification									-		-	_	_	-	+	_		_
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Some, All, None																	-	_



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Reasoning and Critical Thinking																
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Opposites																
Synonyms																
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Reporting on Pictures															•	
Comprehension Concepts																
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Lessons	0 10	2 2	0	30	40	50	60	70	8	0 9	0 10	00 11	0 1	20 1	20 1	40 14



- Language for Writing
 - Designed for $2^{nd} 6^{th}$
 - Focuses on teaching communication skills through writing
 - Supports writing skills through writing narratives, use of specific words, making precise comparisons, summarize and re-tell, and proof read for punctuation, grammar and word usage.



DI Curricula Available

Math Programs

- Connecting Math Concepts: Comprehensive Edition 2012
- Distar Arithmetic
- Corrective Math



DI Curricula Available: Math

- Distar Arithmetic
 - Designed for K 3rd
 - Two Level I & II
 - Teaches basic math skills and concepts
 - Frequent in-program mastery tests



Review of Curriculum Specific Signals



Point/Touch Signal

- Look at the picture.
- Point to the picture (make sure all students can see it).
- Ask the question or give the instruction.
- Hold your finger in the point position for one second.
- Signal with a tap.

Hand Drop Signal

- At the beginning of each step of the exercise, raise your hand. DO NOT move your hand while talking.
- Ask the question or give the instruction.
- Pause for about one second, and then quickly drop your hand to signal for students to respond.









Reading Mastery Signals

- Pronunciation signal: hold up finger
 - 2 seconds for continuous sounds
 - Flash for stop sounds


Connecting Math Concepts and Distar Math

- Point/Touch
- Hand-drop
- Audio signals (e.g. pencil tap, finger snap, or claps)

Summary of Signals

Language for Learning/Thinking

- Point/Touch
- Hand-drop

Reading Mastery

- Continuous Sounds (Loop)
- Stop Sounds (Slash)
- Say It Fast (Hand Drop)
- Blending (Fingers)
- Audio (Clap-Tap)
- Point/Touch

Connecting Math

- Point/Touch
- Hand-drop
- Audio signals (e.g. pencil tap, finger snap, or claps) 74

ERROR CORRECTION

General Corrections

I. Student not attending/not responding consistently:

- Teacher corrects by saying, "Let's try again", and returns to beginning of task. ("Keep your place", "Eyes on me", "Get ready", Signal/call individual student's name, Verify in complete sentences, Turn individual responses into group responses
- Review effective teaching practices (VR, prompt procedures, error correction)

2. If a student fails to answer when the signal is given...

- Teacher corrects by saying, "I have to hear everybody", and then returns to the beginning of the task.
- 3. If a student responds either before or too long after the signal...
 - Teacher corrects by saying, "I need everybody to respond on my signal", and returns to the beginning of the task.
 - Alternatives:
 - "You have to wait until I signal. Let's try it again."
 - "You have to answer as soon as I signal."

Specific Corrections

- Vary depending on the specific response errors.
- Correction procedures are presented in the teacher's presentation book under the exercise for which they apply.



- Test: "Your turn by yourself"
- Verify: "Yes, ____"
- Starting Over: Start at beginning of task





Motivation Important Considerations on Motivation and Reinforcement: Tell student the goal Use specific praise Don't spend a great deal of time in reinforcement...reinforce quick and move on. Challenge the student Use tangible reinforces if necessary...Check for MOTIVATION! Don't forget differential reinforcement and student's VR applies here too!! Reinforce only when student performs according to acceptable standards.



Monitoring Progress

Assessment Tests

- DI programs are designed to give teachers a complete, self contained system for monitoring student performance.
- They include curriculum-based Mastery Tests .
- These tests, which are given to students either individually or in groups after specified lessons have been completed, measure specific skills or concepts that have been taught during preceding lessons.





Student Readiness Skills for DI

Pre-requisite skills

- Complete or mostly complete VB-MAPP (i.e., 4 year old language
 level).
 - Tacting parts and features of objects
 - Tacting adjectives
 - Tacting by class
 - Tacting yes and no
 - Tacting two-component labels (noun verb)
 - Tacting two-component labels (noun adjective)
 - Uses carrier phrase when labeling nouns with verbs or adjectives
 Beginning to label prepositions
 - Beginning to label pronouns
 - Beginning to use appropriate autoclitic phrases/sentence structure
- With some learner's it may be beneficial to start the program prior to completing the VB-MAPP in order to teach some of the more complicated Level 3 skills using the DI curricula.



- Five and six year olds in Kindergarten and first grade with less than adequate language knowledge and skill for their age.
- Four year old children in preschool programs.
- Primary age children in bilingual and ESL programs
- Primary age children in Title I and Special Education programs
- Students in speech correction and language classes.



- Actions
- Descriptions of objects
- Information and background knowledge
- Instructional words and problem-solving concepts
- Classification
- Problem-solving strategies and applications

Language for Learning: Pre-requisites

- Echo words/phrases with accuracy
- Discriminate and Tact many items and actions
- Respond to simple yes/no questions
- Perform simple actions on command
- Describe objects (parts/features)
- Respond to name
- Basic prepositions

Language for Thinking

- Intended for children who are older or have higher skills than those placed in *Language for Learning*.
- Children who have completed Language for Learning.
- First and Second graders with less than adequate language knowledge and skill for their age and have trouble comprehending what they read.
- Older children in bilingual and ESL programs
- Primary age children in Title I and Special Education programs
- Students in speech correction and language classes.

Language for Thinking Content

- Information and background knowledge
- Reasoning and critical thinking
- Vocabulary development
- Observing and describing
- Comprehension concepts
- Interpreting graphic displays



- Second through fifth graders who have completed Language for Learning and Language for Thinking.
- Students placed in program should be reading and writing at the end of second grade or beginning of third grade level and have adequate knowledge of basic spoken English.









"The most important factor in predicting success is not innate talent or intelligence, but the willingness to work hard for extended periods of time."

(Roe, 1953)

DI Video Examples

http://www.adihome.org

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