



Friday Focus

Carter County Schools

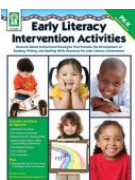
Using Research-Based Strategies

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Response To Intervention (RTI) requires teachers to implement research-based strategies at every level of support for students. Educators should be providing children with lessons that move them forward in their learning, and these lessons must utilize methods that are proven to work. High-quality instruction will produce the best results. Therefore, teachers must search out quality practices and implement these strategies with students.

Teachers in Carter County have access to a number of well-known authors/books from which to pull strategies and lessons. Several books have been used in district-wide book studies: Strategies that Work, 75 Texts and Lessons, and Teach Like a Champion. Several schools have purchased research-based web programs like Great Leaps, Reading A to Z, or Reading Eggs, and our



middle schools have implemented SRA Reading. Math teachers have become familiar with the work of John Vandewalle through attendance at professional development provided by PIMSER such as DAT, MAC, and CAAT. Math teachers also have access to sites such as illustrativemathematics.org, a site supported by Bill McCallum (one of the authors of the Common Core State Standards). A new math site that schools may want to consider is Dream-box. These are wonderful resources for strategies to implement during RTI.

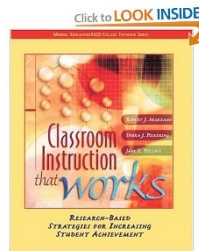
When we hear the term "research-based," we should not feel a sense of incompetence or dread. In fact, teachers in Carter County should be well-versed in a variety of strategies that are tried and proven to work for children, supported by research, and ready to implement in our classrooms. In addition, our schools and district office are equipped with people and

resources that can help us assist one another as we meet the challenge of helping every child meet the standard of excellence.

Teachers are always asking, "How do we know what works?" Check out this awesome website to find out if the strategies you are using in your classroom are supported by research...find out if what you are doing has been proven to work! You may discover a different approach that has better results!

What Works Clearinghouse

<http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/>



Inside this issue:

[Simulations and Games](#)

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[Ohio Site of Research-Based Strategies](#)

[Carter County Teachers Connect Blog](#)

[Links to Proven Strategies](#)

[National Center for RTI](#)

5 What's of RTI

RTI is not easy to schedule, plan, implement, or monitor. On that note, what effective educational initiative is easy? However, we must continue to look for ways to increase the effectiveness of RTI for ALL of our students because the benefits to all students in your classroom are enormous. RTI is about personalizing instruction to meet the needs of students. This instruction should also implement research-based strategies.

What is RTI? RTI stands for Response to Intervention. It is an approach schools use to help all students, including struggling learners. **It is not a special kind of program or book.** Schools use this approach to make sure that every student has opportunities to learn and that students are working at their grade level. **The goal of RTI is to help all students be successful.**

What is at the heart of RTI? The purpose of RTI is to provide all students with the best opportunities to succeed in school, identify students with learning or behavioral problems, and ensure that they receive appropriate instruction and related supports. The goals of RTI are to: Integrate all the resources to minimize risk for the long-term negative consequences associated with poor learning or behavioral outcomes and to strengthen the process of appropriate disability identification.

What impact does RTI have on students who are not struggling? An important Component of an effective RTI framework is the quality of the core curriculum, where all students receive high-quality instruction that is culturally and linguistically responsive and aligned to the state's achievement standards. This allows teachers and parents to be confident that a student's need for appropriate and effective instruction is being met. **In a well-designed RTI system, the core curriculum should be effective and sufficient for about 80% of the student population.**

What are differentiated learning activities? Teachers use student assessment data and knowledge of student readiness, learning preferences, language and culture to offer students in the same class different teaching and learning strategies to address their needs. Differentiation can involve mixed instructional groupings, team teaching, peer tutoring, learning centers, and accommodations to ensure that all students have access to the instructional program. Differentiated instruction is NOT the same as providing more intensive interventions to students with learning problems.

What is the criterion for a successful intervention? An academic intervention is successful if there is a **sustained narrowing of the achievement gap for the struggling learner as demonstrated by data collected through ongoing progress monitoring.** A behavioral intervention is successful if there is a reduction in the problem behavior and/or an increase in desired replacement behaviors.