

NJTESOL-NJBE Special Education Special Interest Group Roundtable Discussion

Wednesday, May 19, 2010
12:15-1:00 Parlor 154

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Specific Learning Disability (SLD)

- SLD- Federal and State Definition
- *Specific learning disability* means a disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or in using language, spoken or written, that may manifest itself in the imperfect ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell, or to do mathematical calculations, including conditions such as perceptual disabilities, brain injury, minimal brain dysfunction, dyslexia, and developmental aphasia.



SLD does NOT include

- *Disorders not included.* Specific learning disability does not include learning problems that are primarily the result of visual, hearing, or motor disabilities, of mental retardation, of emotional disturbance, or of environmental, cultural, or economic disadvantage.



Response To Intervention

- Tier 1
- Tier 2
- Tier 3



Tier 1

- Early Identification
- Non-respondent students are identified
- Application of specific intervention (i.e. reading)
- Recording of progress



Tier 2

- If a student successfully responds to tier 1 interventions they are returned to the “general pool”; if not, they are placed into tier 2
- More intensive and frequent interventions
- Assessed again at the end of the tier 2 time period...non-responsive students move to tier 3



Tier 3

- More one-on-one setting
- Comprehensive evaluation (if still not responding) and a possible referral to the child study team
- And then...?



“RTI said to pay off in gains for ELLs”

- Mary Ann Zehr
- California school district
- NCLB
- Increasing Intensity and Language Instruction



Steven Krashen and RTI at Chula Vista

- Ignoring scientific data
- Most should not have been classified ELL
- No support for the techniques



Resource

- Ortiz, A. (2001). English Language Learners with Special Needs: Effective Instructional Strategies. ERIC Clearinghouse on Languages and Linguistics: Washington, DC.



Prevention of School Failure includes:

- A shared knowledge base
- Recognition of L1
- Collaborative School-Community Relationships
- Academically Rich Programs
- Effective Instruction



Shared Knowledge Base

- All teachers should understand:
 - SLA
 - L1 impacts on L2
 - Assessment in L1 and L2
 - Sociocultural influences on learning
 - Effective L1 and L2 instruction
 - Informal and Formal assessments



Recognition of L1

- Staff should understand the native culture language of the student
- Education of ELLs is the shared responsibility of ALL educators
- “Our kids” vs. “My kids” and “Your kids”



Collaborative School-Community Relationships

- Parents must be viewed as capable advocates for their children
- Grow in respect of cultural difference in child-rearing practices and the role of parents in education



Academically Rich Programs

- Students must have access to learn advanced skills in:
 - Comprehension
 - Reasoning
 - Composition



Effective Instruction

- High Quality Instruction designed to meet high expectations
- Employ effective (not eclectic) strategies
- Provide opportunities to review previously learned concepts



Early Intervention for Struggling Learners

- Includes:
 - Clinical Teaching
 - Peer or Expert Consultation
 - Teacher Assistance Teams (TATs)
 - Alternative Programs and Services



Clinical Teaching

- Carefully Sequenced
- Teach:
 - Skills, Subjects, or Concepts
 - Re-teach using different strategies or approaches
 - Use informal assessment strategies



Peer or Expert Consultation

- Peers and Experts work together
- ESL/Bilingual/Special Education Teacher and Administrators
- Faculty needs to function as a community



Teacher Assistance Team (TAT)

- TATs help teachers resolve problems they routinely encounter
- Comprised of 4 to 6 general educators and the teacher that requests assistance
- Sounds like I&RS



Alternative Programs and Services

- General Education NOT Special Education should be primarily responsible for the education of students with LD



General Discussion

- ...