

Five Best Practices for Teaching Math To Struggling Learners

1) Cooperative Learning

- *teams of 3-4 / numbered heads*
- *positive reinforcement of team behavior (ex: T-graph for social skills)*
- *team practice before individual practice*
- *review games: inside/outside circle, Loopgames, Where's my answer?*

2) Consistent Processing Breaks

- *during instruction: chunk information + 10/2 's, think-pair-share, reciprocal teaching*
- *before answering a question: discuss answer with a partner or team*

3) Pictorials/Graphic Organizers with Real Pictures

- *charts with key vocabulary created in front of the students (within 3 yards for visual imprinting.)*
- *clear printing big enough to be seen across the room*
- *review with word cards*

4) Guided Oral Practice with Kinesthetic Gestures

- *oral practice of content vocabulary*
- *oral practice of logarithms*
- *examples: songs, chants, repeating hard words, re-teaching to a partner*
- *use of kinesthetic gestures to remember information*

5) Checking for Understanding

- *teacher listens in during processing breaks and team practice*
- *response boards*
- *1-3 self assessment*
- *ticket out the door*
- *thumbs up/down*
- *outcome sentences (modeled)*
- *learning logs*