

Seven Best Practices for Teaching Struggling Learners

1) Cooperative Learning

- teams of 3-4 / numbered heads
- positive reinforcement of team behavior (ex: T-graph for social skills)
- whole class modeling ➤ team practice ➤ individual

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

- frontloading of key vocabulary and concepts
- charts made with the students close enough for visual brain imprinting (within 3 yards)
- clear printing big enough to be seen across the room
- review within 48 hours (ex: word cards, Loopgames, matching activities. inside/outside circle).

5) Effective Reading Strategies

- build background!
- no cold reads, whole class read around, or popcorn reads!
- Clunkers & Links, SQ3R, DRTA, Reciprocal Teaching, Shared Reading, etc.

6) Effective Writing Strategies

- build background
- graphic organizers for planning the structure of each genre
- cooperative strip paragraph for teaching the revising process
- writing checklist with emphasis on the revising process
- student friendly rubric for feedback & grading

7) Checking for Understanding

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