

Teaching Special Education Students in Four Blocks Classrooms

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http://www.fd.appstate.edu/rcoe_faculty/koppenhaverd/4blocksped.pdf
Homepage: http://www.fd.appstate.edu/rcoe_faculty/koppenhaverd/

7 Blind Mice Lessons in Relation to Students in Special Education

- Single program solutions are unlikely to be “special” enough education to impact literacy.
- Struggling readers (and the systems that serve them) need the multi-pronged attack that 4-Block offers.

The Writing Block

What can we learn from Brian?

- Different strokes (pencils) not only for different folks but also for different purposes.
 - Dictation for science/social studies tests (to get at full range of knowledge), first drafts (to get ideas out), homework (to get at ideas)
 - Co:Writer for revision and independent composition
 - Keyboard as back-up (e.g., AlphaSmart) when computer is unavailable
 - Pencil or keyboard for handwriting time or spelling activities

What can we learn from Eric?

- Benefits of:
 - Using your own pencil
 - Aide who scaffolds by expansion and removes irrelevant difficulties (peeling labels)
 - Controlling your own writing content
 - Teacher who scaffolds with pictures and discussion about content
 - Revision

What can we learn from Michael?

- Letter-sound and word-level difficulties can be reduced with high tech “pencils.”
- Composing your own message is at least as powerful as, if not more powerful than, interpreting others’ messages for young students.

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What can we learn from Tinsley?

- Benefits of:
 - Juggling with fewer balls
 - poetry frame
 - Hands-on exploration as background step
 - Scaffolded (collaborative) first draft
- You can't guarantee literacy learning success, but the surest way to prevent it is to deny opportunity.
- It is sometimes possible to support learners who lag far behind peers in inclusive environments (don't always require 1-to-1 aides or pullout).

What can we learn from Jordan?

- Hillocks was right
 - Models work
- Expectations are more important than standards in supporting struggling learners.

A Range of Writing Successes

- Different "pencils"
 - Letter stamps, paint brush, Duplo car with marker, labeler, thinking cap...
- Different technologies:
 - Video painter, Co:Writer + talking word processor, word processors, Intellikeys, ViaVoice, AAC devices, Inspiration or Kidspiration...
- Different scaffolds:
 - Models, sign-in, "what else?" ...



Guided Reading Block

What can we learn from Jack? 5 years old, autism

- Benefits of:
 - Familiar, interesting experience
 - Field trip front-loaded, rather than after the unit
 - Patterned text
 - (Classmate) saw a (animal) at the zoo.
 - Communication symbols
 - Symbol hierarchy in order of ease of learning, understanding, and use:
 - color photos, b & w photos, color line drawings, b & w line drawings, orthography

Technologies to Support Comprehension, Discussion, and Composition

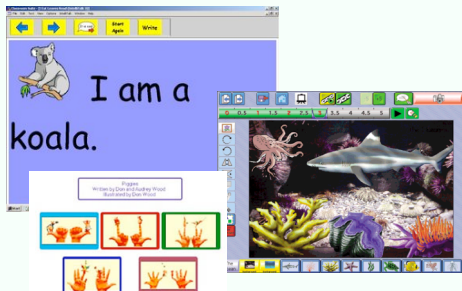
<http://www.kidspiration.com>



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Increasing Attention and Learning with Talking Text, Greater Interactivity, Animation



Making Books Accessible for Communication, Attention, and Memory

- Communication symbols increase quality, quantity, and duration of teacher-student interaction about text.



Sample Multimedia to Support Comprehension and Learning

- IntelliPics, IntelliPics Studio
 - Can use pictures, imported pictures and videos, sound files, animate text and pictures, talking text (digital or synthetic)
 - <http://www.intellitools.com>
- Buildability
 - Can use pictures, show animation process (like a drawing movie), videos and sound files, talking text (digital or synthetic)
 - <http://www.donjohnston.com>
- PowerPoint
 - Can use pictures, imported pictures and videos, sound files, animate text and pictures, record your own digital text

Self-Selected Reading Block

Creating a Library of Talking Books

- <http://www.ipl.org> and others
- Copy and paste into talking word processor
- Or <http://www.readplease.com> (free text-to-speech for PC)
- Reasons to consider reading rate:
 - Fluency
 - Comprehension
 - Indicator of effort

Resources

- Dept. of Language, Reading, and Exceptionalities at Appalachian State University. Darrell Morris, Bob Schlagal, Dave Koppenhaver with children with developmental disabilities or reading disabilities. http://www.lre.appstate.edu/lre_fac.html or 828-262-6074
- Center for Literacy and Disability Studies, UNC-Chapel Hill, <http://www.med.unc.edu/ahs/clds>. Research and education center focusing on children with severe and multiple disabilities including visual impairments, deaf-blind, augmented communicators, severe intellectual disabilities, and others.
- <http://clerccenter3.gallaudet.edu/>. Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center. Click on "Other Resources" link and then "Literacy link" for a wide variety of resources and info on supporting literacy in children who are deaf.

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Resources

- <http://schools.nycenet.edu/d75/home/student/literacy/adaptedbooks/default.htm>. NY City Schools Special Educ District 75 has PDF documents with suggestions for adapting books.
- <http://www.lburkhart.com/> Linda Burkhart's website on technology-supported communication and education for children with disabilities.
- <http://CCAC.ATAccess.org/> Carolina Computer Access Center in Charlotte. Variety of assistive technology resources. Center provides AT lab and workshops.

Resources

- http://www.abledata.com/Site_2/edu_mgmt_gen.htm. Searchable database of assistive technology. *Communication, education, and instructional materials* as good starting places for literacy-related technologies.
- http://www.education-world.com/a_tech/tech086.shtml. Nice intro to assistive technology for classroom teachers with additional links.
- <http://www.kidspiration.com>. Computer-based webbing.

Resources

- www.mayer-johnson.com. Commercially-available symbol-adapted texts for children with disabilities.
- <http://www.donjohnston.com>. Makes a wide variety of technologies for supporting literacy in children with disabilities. Free Buildability Player download and early literacy texts in Downloads section that works in PC or Mac OS9 environments.
- <http://www.intellitools.com>. Makes a wide variety of technologies for supporting literacy in children with disabilities. Free Player downloads and teacher-made activity sharing.