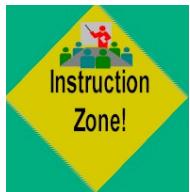


Progress Monitoring: Helping Teachers Teach

by Charmaine Thaner charmaine@cspeda.com

If a seed of a lettuce will not grow, we do not blame the lettuce.
Instead, the fault lies with us for not having nourished the seed properly.
Buddhist Proverb

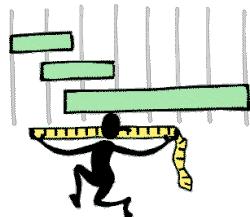
Progress Monitoring is...



a way to evaluate effectiveness of educators' instructional strategies.



also a way to measure students' progress in reaching academic, behavioral, and/or social goals.



frequent (weekly or monthly), brief measures.



evaluating individual or whole class's growth.

10 Steps of Progress Monitoring:

- 1st Determine student's current level of performance (gather baseline data).
- 2nd Communicate with family about student's performance at school (family-school partnership).
- 3rd Create goals with family for what student will be learning over time (measurable goals).
- 4th Select instructional strategies that incorporate student's strengths/interests and will meet his/her unique needs (specialized instruction).
- 5th Measure student progress on weekly/monthly basis (data collection).
- 6th Share data and interpretation of it with family (family-school partnership).
- 7th Evaluate actual student learning to expected learning (gap analysis).
- 8th Determine if chosen instructional strategy is effective, if it is continue to use. If not, choose another researched based strategy to use (reflective teaching).
- 9th Communicate with family what instructional strategy is being used at school (family-school partnership).
- 10th Continue working toward reaching academic, behavioral, and/or social goals (presumption of competence)

Progress Monitoring: Helping Teachers Teach continued

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Benefits of Progress Monitoring:



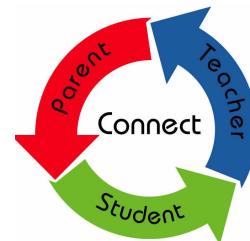
Instructional plans can be revised as soon as child is not making progress versus waiting for district/state test results.



Students receive more appropriate instruction.



Students achieve more when teachers develop stronger instructional strategies.



There is an increase in effective communication between schools and families.

10 Questions Parents Can Ask About Progress Monitoring:

1. What does my child currently know and what do we want him/her to know at the end of the year?
2. What will teachers use to monitor my child's progress?
3. How often will the progress monitoring happen?
4. How frequently will families receive information about their child's progress?
5. How can I better understand what the data means in terms of what my child is learning or not learning?
6. How long will an instructional strategy be tried before deciding the child is or is not making adequate progress?
7. What will happen if my child makes very slow progress?
8. What training is necessary so staff can effectively implement new researched based instructional strategies?
9. How do school administrators check to see if the instructional strategies were carried out the way research says they were meant to be?
10. What can be done at home to support what teachers are trying at school?