

Special Education: At Last--Effective Intervention!

Wouldn't it make sense to intervene with struggling readers to *prevent* them from ending up in the resource room?

by Dee Tadlock, Ph.D., Reading Specialist, Creator of Read Right.®

That's what Pat Harper thought. She is Executive Director of Special Education for the Freestone Navarro Bi County Cooperative, a shared service arrangement consisting of ten independent school districts south of Dallas, Texas. Harper had seen the numbers of referrals for special education steadily increasing, and she vowed to do something about it.

Three years ago she and her staff implemented a response to intervention (RTI) program Co-op wide centered on reading. "Our aim was to change students' lives through reading achievement. We believed that if we could reach our struggling readers and non-readers, we could reduce our special education population and corresponding referral rates, and ultimately improve our state testing scores."

After considerable research, the Co-op purchased Read Right in 2006. "We have seen phenomenal results!" says Harper. Last school year **72% of the 283 students served passed the TAKS**. (They had all failed it previously.)

Out of the 419 students served in the program since its inception, only 3 have been referred to special education (a **48% decrease in the referral** rate since implementation of Read Right). Additionally, over the three years of Read Right implementation, Harper reports a **40% reduction in the special education population**. "For many students, solving their reading problems with Read Right tutoring has been a ticket out of special education."

"Read Right has proved to be the tool that has enabled school staff to serve our students in a way that no one thought was possible. The dramatic results speak for themselves. Read Right works!"

Why does Read Right small-group tutoring yield impressive results with even the most challenged populations?

Reading problems are caused when a student constructs a faulty neural network to guide the process of reading. Because the network has errors encoded in, it operates inappropriately when it is accessed to read. The result is less than efficient, effective reading. If a child builds in a lot of errors when first learning to read, they frequently become categorized as Tier 3 or special education students.

The only way to eliminate a reading problem is to compel the brain to re-model the erroneously-operating network. The patented Read Right tutoring methodology compels the brain to do this remodeling work. Brains are "plastic," but they are resistant to remodeling existing networks. The tutoring environment must be precise to facilitate the remodeling work, and Read Right trains members of your staff to be small group tutors, skilled in providing just the right environment.

Pat Harper sums up her experience with Read Right in this way: "For three years, I have witnessed this reading program transform the lives of my students and their families. . . Establishing Read Right in our ten districts is the most important thing that I have accomplished in my twenty four years as an educator."

Bringing Read Right to your school

If your school district experienced increases in the number of Special Education and/or Title I students this school year, you will likely receive more federal funding. Look at Read Right now. Have your strategic plan ready. The potential increase in your Maximum Entitlement could launch your Read Right program as early as mid-March this school year. Superintendents will learn in mid-February exactly how much money their districts will receive.

To learn more about Read Right:

Visit www.readright.com to read articles about schools and educators across the country and their experiences with this new intervention program.

Contact the Read Right office by phone or Email. We will be happy to answer your questions and Email or send you a school information packet that explains in detail the theory, methodology, implementation and cost. Ask for Mervina at 360-427-9440 mervina.sturgeon@readright.com

Talk with administrators, special education teachers, reading specialists, and ELL teachers across the country who have first hand experience implementing Read Right. **A listing of referrals** with phone numbers and email addresses is included in the information packet.

Attend Read Right's Seventh Annual Conference to be held at the Omaha Hilton Hotel, May 13-15, 2010. This conference will provide a hands-on opportunity to learn about Read Right's theoretical constructs and the implementation and success of Read Right in schools and colleges across the country. Come join us for the 2½ day conference (or for one day only) and learn more about how this innovative program can empower your students by quickly and permanently eliminating their reading problems. There will be opportunity for school visitations throughout Omaha to observe Read Right in action and to talk with principals, students, tutors, and Special Ed staff.

Omaha has implemented Read Right in 24 elementary schools, 8 middle schools and 6 high schools. Principals and staff are very pleased with the results they are seeing with their Special Ed, Title 1 and Tier 3 students. Omaha learned about Read Right by visiting Irving, Texas ISD where they have implemented Read Right as their Tier 3 intervention program in 31 elementary and secondary schools. Irving ISD, with 69% Hispanic, 73% Free & Reduced and 39% Limited English Proficiency, has found the program works very well with these populations. More conference information is available at www.readright.com

Please forward to anyone in your district who might be particularly interested in helping struggling readers.