

# The Teacher as 'First Responder': RTI/MTSS & Struggling Learners

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*[www.interventioncentral.org](http://www.interventioncentral.org)*



# Response to Intervention

Intervention Central  
www.interventioncentral.org

The screenshot displays the Intervention Central website interface. At the top, the logo "INTERVENTION CENTRAL" is accompanied by the tagline "Your source for RTI resources" and a pencil icon. A navigation bar includes links for Home, Academic Interventions, Behavior Interventions, Products, Workshops, CBM, Downloads, Blog, and Contact. The main heading is "Response To Intervention – RTI Resources", with social media sharing options for Facebook, Twitter, Print, Email, and Google+. Below this, the "Products" section features a link to "RTI Data Collection Forms & Organizer". The "Latest Updates" section, dated September 17th, 2013, highlights a "How To: Reduce Time-Outs With Active Response Beads" article. A central image shows a teacher and four students working together at a table. To the right, the "Featured Tools" section lists various resources such as the Academic Intervention Planner, Behavior Intervention Planner, Behavior Rating Scales Report Card Maker, ChartDog Graph Maker, Dolch Wordlist Fluency Generator, Early Math Fluency Generator, Learning Disability Accommodations Finder, Letter Name Fluency Generator, Math Work - Math Worksheet Generator, Reading Fluency Passages Generator, and Student Academic Success Strategies - Checklist Maker. Two news items are also featured: one from November 20, 2013, about building sight-word vocabulary, and another from November 18, 2013, about CBM Warehouse resources for tracking academic skills.

**INTERVENTION CENTRAL**  
Your source for RTI resources

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## Response To Intervention – RTI Resources

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**Products**

RTI Data Collection Forms & Organizer

**Latest Updates**

September 17th, 2013  
**How To: Reduce Time-Outs With Active Response Beads**  
Active-Response Beads-Time Out replaces in-class time-out, promotes students' use of calm-down strategies, enhances behavioral self-management skills, and minimizes exclusion from academic activities.  
[Read more...](#)

Intervention Central provides teachers, schools and districts with free resources to help struggling learners and implement Response to Intervention and attain the Common Core State Standards. [Spread the word about ICI!](#)

[20 Nov 2013] **Building Sight-Word Vocabulary: 4 Methods.** Rapid recognition of sight words is a key foundation skill that supports the development of reading fluency. Review these four quick and efficient [tutoring interventions](#) that promote student acquisition of common sight words.

[18 Nov 2013]. **CBM Warehouse: New Resources for Tracking Basic Academic Skills.** Teachers can now access convenient guidelines and research norms for using Curriculum-Based Measures in 6 areas: [Letter Knowledge](#), [Oral Reading Fluency](#), [Reading Comprehension \(Maze\)](#), [Early Math \(Number Sense\)](#), [Math Computation](#), and [Written Expression](#).

**Featured Tools**

- Academic Intervention Planner for Struggling Students
- Behavior Intervention Planner
- Behavior Rating Scales Report Card Maker
- ChartDog Graph Maker
- Dolch Wordlist Fluency Generator
- Early Math Fluency Generator
- Learning Disability Accommodations Finder
- Letter Name Fluency Generator
- Math Work - Math Worksheet Generator
- Reading Fluency Passages Generator
- Student Academic Success Strategies - Checklist Maker

## Handout



*RTI/MTSS Classroom Teacher Toolkit*

### The Teacher as 'First Responder': RTI/MTSS & Struggling Learners

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31 October 2019  
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Workshop Materials: <http://www.interventioncentral.org/ramaz>


Workshop PPTs and handout available at:

<http://www.interventioncentral.org/ramaz>

# RTI/MTSS & the Struggling Learner: Workshop Agenda



1.  **ACADEMIC INTERVENTIONS.** What are examples of academic interventions that can be used in elementary classrooms?
2.  **RTI/MTSS.** What is 'response-to-intervention' and how can it help schools to identify and support 'difficult-to-teach' students?
3.  **RESOURCES.** What free internet intervention resources are available for teachers?



*Building the Behavior/Social-Emotional Toolkit.* What are research-based strategies that can help teachers to motivate students and decrease problem behaviors?



# Behavior Toolkit (Online)



## A Toolkit: 38 Classroom Ideas to Help Students to Make Better Behavioral Choices

Behavior intervention plans are highly individualized—because every student displays a unique profile of behaviors. However, teachers will find that their chances of helping a student to engage in positive behaviors increase when they include each of these 3 elements in their classroom behavior intervention plans:

1. Antecedents: Strategies to promote positive behaviors and prevent misbehavior
2. Positive consequences: Responses that increase positive/goal behaviors
3. Extinction procedures: Responses that extinguish problem behaviors

Every one of these elements plays a crucial role in promoting the success of a behavior plan. Antecedent strategies prevent the student from engaging in problem behaviors in the first place. Positive consequences motivate the student to show desired behaviors, such as academic engagement. Extinction procedures remove the 'pay-off' to the student for engaging in problem behaviors. While any one of the elements might be inadequate to change the student's behavior, the combination of antecedents, positive consequences, and extinction procedures can result in a strong, flexible plan and successful intervention outcome.

Teachers can use this guide to build their own behavior plans using its research-based ideas for antecedents, positive consequences, and extinction procedures.

### 1. Antecedents: Strategies to Prevent Misbehavior

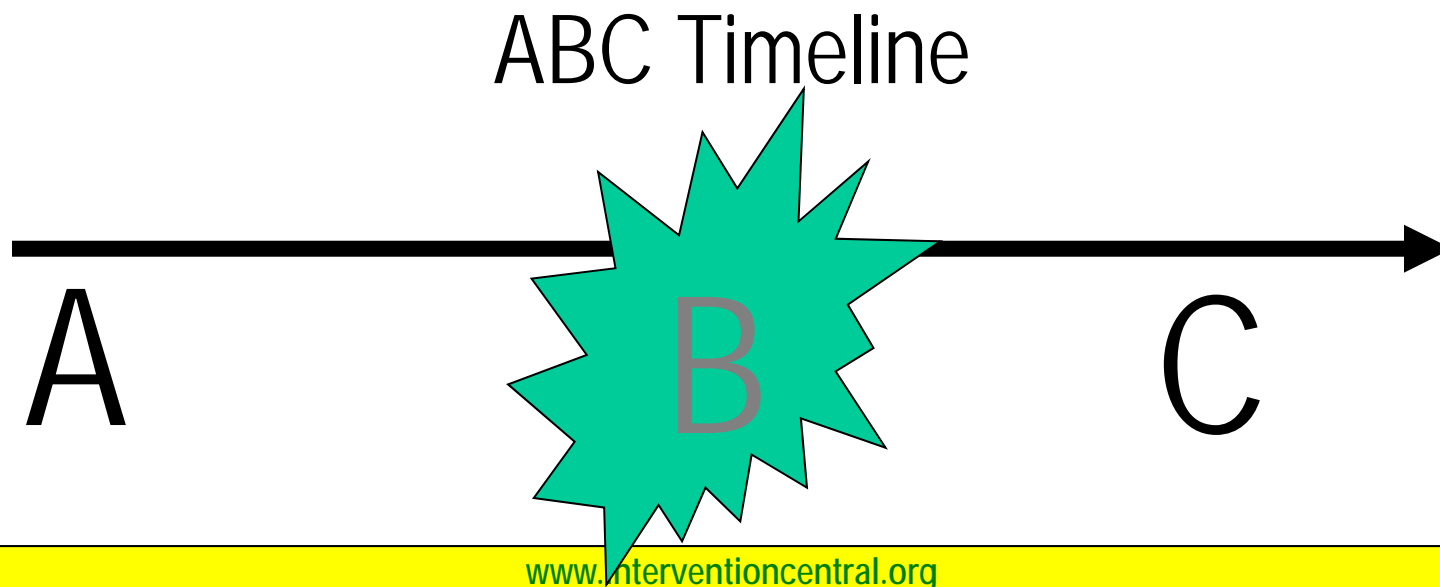
Teachers have the greatest array of options to influence a student to engage in positive behaviors when they focus on antecedents: actions they take before the student behavior occurs. Proactive antecedent actions to encourage desired behaviors are often quick-acting, can prevent misbehavior and attendant interruption of instruction, and usually require less teacher effort than providing corrective consequences after problem behaviors have occurred. Teacher strategies to elicit positive student behaviors include making instructional adjustments, providing student prompts and reminders, and teaching students to monitor and evaluate their work performance. Here are specific antecedent ideas that teachers can use to 'nudge' students to engage in desired behaviors:

#### *Antecedents That Prevent Problem Behaviors*

- ☐ **Behaviors: Teach Expectations** (Fairbanks, Sugai, Guardino, & Lathrop, 2007). Students must be explicitly taught behavioral expectations before they can be held accountable for those behaviors. The teacher should model positive behaviors, give students examples and non-examples of appropriate behaviors to clarify understanding, have students practice those behaviors with instructor feedback; and consistently acknowledge and praise students for successfully displaying positive behaviors.
- ☐ **Instructional Match: Ensure the Student Can Do the Work** (Burns, VanDerHeyden, & Boice, 2008). Student misbehavior frequently arises from an inability to do the academic task. When the student lacks skills necessary for the academic task, the instructor teaches the necessary skill(s). Additional strategies include adjusting the immediate task to the student's current skill(s) and pairing the student with a helping peer.

### ABC Time-line

The ABC (Antecedent-Behavior-Consequence) timeline shows the elements that contribute to student behaviors: (a) the **A**ntecedent, or trigger; (b) the student **B**ehavior; and (c) the **C**onsequence of that behavior.





- **'Two by Ten': Engage in Brief Positive Chats** (Mendler, 2000). If a teacher has a strained (or nonexistent) relationship with a particular student, that instructor may want to jump-start a more positive pattern of interaction using the 'two-by-ten' intervention.

With this time efficient strategy, the teacher commits to having a positive 2-minute conversation with the student at least once per day across 10 consecutive school days. The active ingredient in the intervention is regular and positive teacher attention delivered at times when the student is engaged in appropriate behavior.

### Extinction Procedures: REDUCE or ELIMINATE Behaviors

#### **Planned Ignoring: Turn Off the Attention** (Colvin, 2009).

In planned ignoring, the instructor withholds attention when the student engages in the problem behavior. Ignoring problem behavior can remove the source of its reinforcement and thus help to extinguish it.

Teachers should remember, though, that planned ignoring alone is seldom successful. Instead, planned ignoring becomes much more powerful when, at the same time, the teacher provides regular attention whenever the student engages in positive, replacement behaviors.

### Positive Consequences: INCREASE Positive/Goal Behaviors

**Scheduled Attention: Rechannel Adult Interactions** (Austin & Soeda, 2008). A strategy to increase positive behaviors is to 'catch the student being good' with regular doses of 'scheduled attention': (1) The teacher decides on a fixed-interval schedule to provide attention (e.g., every 8 minutes); (2) At each interval, the teacher observes the student; (3) If the student is engaged in appropriate behaviors at that moment, the teacher provides a dose of positive attention (e.g., verbal praise; non-verbal praise such as thumbs-up; brief positive conversation; encouragement). If off-task or not behaving appropriately, the teacher briefly redirects the student to task and returns immediately to instruction until the next scheduled-attention interval.

### *Academic Interventions.*

What are examples of elementary interventions for academic skills?



## Response to Intervention

**1. Phonemic Awareness:**  
The ability to hear and manipulate sounds in words.

**2. Alphabetic Principle:** The ability to associate sounds with letters and use these sounds to form words.

**3. Fluency with Text:** The effortless, automatic ability to read words in connected text.

**4. Vocabulary:** The ability to understand (receptive) and use (expressive) words to acquire and convey meaning.

**5. Comprehension:** The complex cognitive process involving the intentional interaction between reader and text to convey meaning.

### Five Components of Reading



Grade 1: Problem: *"Roy doesn't know his letter names."*

Intervention: Incremental Rehearsal



### Letter Names: Incremental Rehearsal

Step 1: The tutor writes down on a series of flash cards the letters that the student needs to learn.

K	P	b
t	m	c
D	l	a
w	q	h
N	C	Y

# Incremental Rehearsal of Letter Names

Step 2: The tutor reviews the letter identification cards with the student. Any card that the student can answer within 2 seconds is sorted into the 'KNOWN' pile. Any card that the student cannot answer within two seconds—or answers incorrectly—is sorted into the 'UNKNOWN' pile.

## 'KNOWN' Letters

b	P
Y	C
h	q
D	a
m	t

## 'UNKNOWN' Letters

K
N
w
I
c

# Incremental Rehearsal of Letter Names

Step 3: The tutor is now ready to follow a nine-step incremental-rehearsal sequence: First, the tutor presents the student with a single index card containing an 'unknown' letter. The tutor reads the letter aloud, then prompts the student to read off the same unknown letter.



K

# Incremental Rehearsal of Letter Names

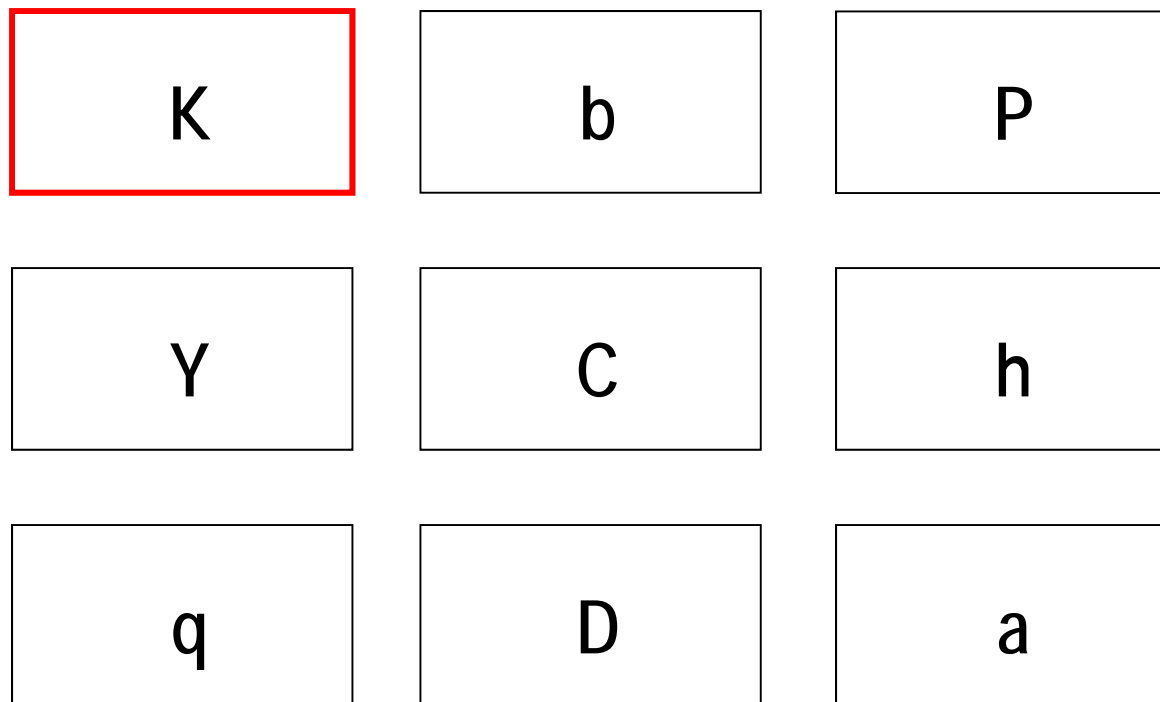
Step 3 (Cont.): Next the tutor takes a letter from the 'known' pile and pairs it with the unknown letter. When shown each of the two letters, the student is asked to identify it.

K

b

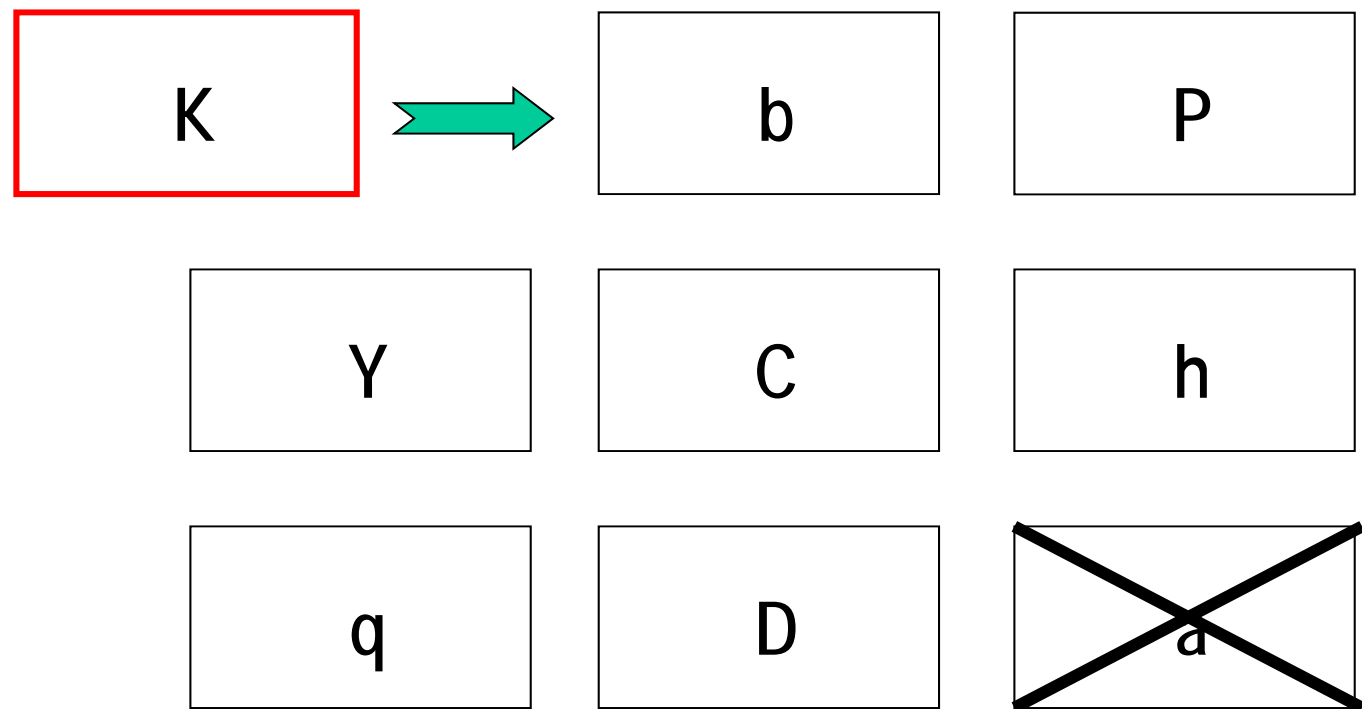
### Incremental Rehearsal of Letter Names

Step 3 (Cont.): The tutor then repeats the sequence--adding yet another known letter card to the growing deck of flash cards being reviewed and each time prompting the student to answer the whole series of letter names. This process continues until the review deck contains a total of one 'unknown' letter and eight 'known' letters (a high ratio of 'known' to 'unknown' material ).



# Incremental Rehearsal of Letter Names

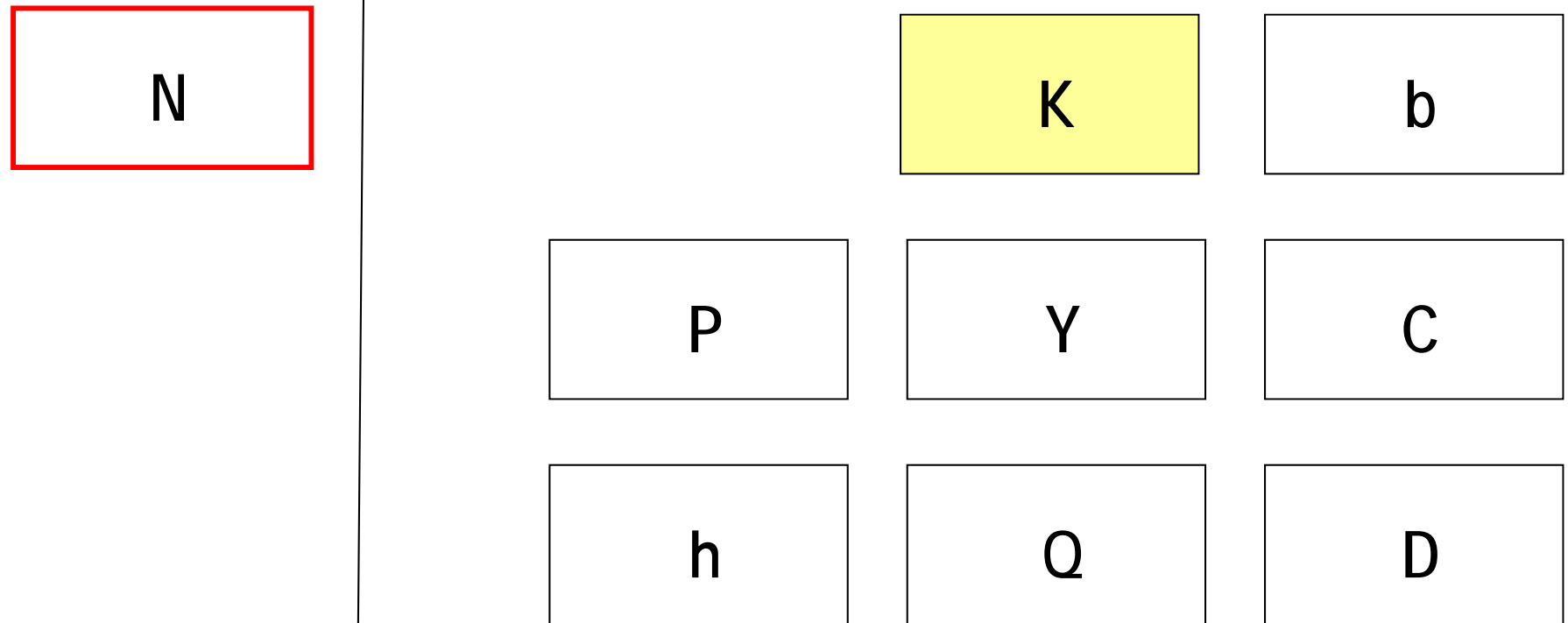
Step 4: At this point, the last 'known' letter that had been added to the student's review deck is discarded (placed back into the original pile of 'known' items) and the previously 'unknown' letter name is now treated as the first 'known' letter in new student review deck for future drills.





### Incremental Rehearsal of Letter Names

Step 4: The student is then presented with a new 'unknown' letter to identify and the review sequence is once again repeated each time until the 'unknown' letter is grouped with nine 'known' letters—and on and on. Daily review sessions are discontinued either when time runs out or when the student answers an 'unknown' letter incorrectly three times.




Grade 2: Problem: *"Luis needs to strengthen his sight-word vocabulary before he can move up to his next book."*

Intervention: Reading Racetrack

### Reading Racetrack

- The teacher selects 28 words from a sight word list (e.g., Dolch, Fry) to create 'Reading Racetracks'.
- In one session, the student reads through four **target** Racetracks with 7 words each and one **review** Racetrack with all 28 words.
- The student reads words aloud from a 'Reading Racetrack' sheet for 1 minute.
- The student engages in repeated readings from that Racetrack wordlist until reaching a 90-word criterion or having read the list five times in a row.

26	were	27	five	28	some	29	had	30	know	31	stop	32	then
1	had	 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Reading Racetrack</b></p> <p>Student: _____ JAKE</p> <p>Date: _____ Sept 17, 2014</p> <p>Wordlist: _____</p> <p>Circle List Type <u>Target # 2</u> or Review</p>										33	five
2	five											34	some
3	stop											35	then
4	know											36	were
5	then											37	had
6	were											38	know
7	some											39	stop
8	five	9	stop	10	were	11	had	12	know	13	some	14	then

START

▶

Source: Rinaldi, L., Sells, D., & McLaughlin, T. F. (1997). The effect of reading racetracks on the sight word acquisition and fluency of elementary students. *Journal of Behavioral Education*, 7, 219-233.

# Response to Intervention



## Reading Racetrack Score Sheet

Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Wordlist: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

TARGET LIST 1	#/Words Correct	#/Errors	Practice Words	TARGET LIST 3	#/Words Correct	#/Errors	Practice Words
First Read				First Read			
Second Read				Second Read			
Third Read				Third Read			
Fourth Read				Fourth Read			
Fifth Read				Fifth Read			

Source: Rinaldi, L., Sells, D., & McLaughlin, T. F. (1997). The effect of reading racetracks on the sight word acquisition and fluency of elementary students. *Journal of Behavioral Education*, 7, 219-233.

Grade 3: Problem: *"Terrence is not a fluent reader."*

Interventions:

- Paired Reading
- Group-Based Repeated Reading



### Classroom Academic Interventions: Reading Fluency

- **PAIRED READING: INCREASE READING FLUENCY.** Teacher and student begin the session reading aloud in unison.

During the session, at the student's choosing, he/she gives a silent signal (e.g., lightly tapping the teacher's wrist); at this signal, the teacher stops reading aloud and instead follows along silently while the student continues to read aloud. Whenever the student commits a reading error or hesitates for 3 seconds or longer (during either unison or independent reading), the teacher corrects the error and resumes reading in unison.

# Group-Based Repeated Reading

(Available on Conference Web Page)

An effective *group repeated reading intervention* (Klubnik & Ardoin, 2010) has been developed that allows a tutor to work on reading fluency with up to 3 students in a group format. This tutoring package includes several components, with repeated reading as the 'engine' that drives student growth in reading fluency. A tutoring session using this group intervention will last about 15 minutes.

### Group-Based Repeated Reading

**Preparation.** To prepare for each tutoring session, the tutor creates or obtains these materials:

- 1 student reading passage: This passage should be 150 words or longer and at students' instructional level.

*Instructional* as defined here means that students are able to correctly read at least 90% of the words in the passage. Copies of the passage are made for each student and the tutor.

### Group-Based Repeated Reading

**Procedure.** The group repeated reading intervention has 4 components: passage preview, repeated readings, phrase-drill error correction, and contingent reward:

1. *Passage Preview.* The tutor reads the practice passage aloud once while students follow along silently, tracking their place with an index finger. During this initial read-through, the tutor stops several times at unpredictable points and asks a student selected at random to read the next word in the passage. (NOTE: This 'assisted cloze' strategy -- Homan, Klesius, & Hite, 1993--ensures that students pay close attention to the tutor's modeling of text.)

*Source:* Klubnik, C., & Ardoyn, S. P. (2010). Examining immediate and maintenance effects of a reading intervention package on generalization materials: Individual versus group implementation. *Journal of Behavioral Education*, 19, 7-29.

# Group-Based Repeated Reading

## Procedure.

2. *Repeated Readings.* The tutor next has the students read the practice passage aloud 3 times . For each read-aloud, the students engage in sequential reading, with the process continuing in round-robin fashion until the passage is completed. When a student misreads or hesitates in reading a word for 3 seconds or longer, the tutor states the correct word. At the beginning of each repeated reading, the tutor selects a different student, to ensure that by the end of the 3 readings, each student will have read each sentence in the passage once.

## Group-Based Repeated Reading

### Procedure.

3. *Phrase Drill Error Correction.* At the end of each reading, the tutor reviews error words (misreads or hesitations for 3 seconds or longer) with students. The tutor points to each error word, ensures that students are looking at the word, and asks them to read the word aloud in unison.

If students misread or hesitate for 3 seconds or longer, the tutor pronounces the error word and has students read the word aloud together (choral responding). Then the tutor has students read aloud a phrase of 2-3 words that includes the error word--performing this action twice.



Grade 4: Problem: *"Malik doesn't closely monitor his understanding of what he reads."*

Intervention: Click-or-Clunk

### Reading Comprehension: Self-Management Strategies

#### CLICK OR CLUNK: MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- The student continually checks understanding of sentences, paragraphs, and pages of text while reading.
- If the student understands what is read, he/she quietly says 'CLICK' and continues reading.
- If the student encounters problems with vocabulary or comprehension, he/she quietly says 'CLUNK' and uses a checklist to apply simple strategies to solve those reading difficulties.

*Source:* Babbs, P. J. (1984). Monitoring cards help improve comprehension. *The Reading Teacher*, 38(2), 200-204.

## 'Click or Clunk' Check Sheet

### MY READING CHECK SHEET\*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_



#### Sentence Check... "Did I understand this sentence?"

If you had trouble understanding a word in the sentence, try...

- ☐ Reading the sentence over.
- ☐ Reading the next sentence.
- ☐ Looking up the word in the glossary (if the book or article has one).
- ☐ Asking someone.

If you had trouble understanding the meaning of the sentence, try...

- ☐ Reading the sentence over.
- ☐ Reading the whole paragraph again.
- ☐ Reading on.
- ☐ Asking someone.



#### Paragraph Check... "What did the paragraph say?"

If you had trouble understanding what the paragraph said, try...

- ☐ Reading the paragraph over.



#### Page Check... "What do I remember?"

If you had trouble remembering what was said on this page, try...

- ☐ Re-reading each paragraph on the page, and asking yourself, "What did it say?"

\* Adapted from Anderson (1980), Babbs (1984)

Grade 2: Problem: *"Emma is not mastering grade-level spelling words."*

Intervention: Cover-Copy-Compare

# Cover-Copy-Compare: Spelling

- **DESCRIPTION:** In this intervention to promote acquisition of spelling words, the student is given a spelling sheet with the target words correctly spelled. The student looks at each correctly spelled word, covers the word briefly and copies it from memory, then compares the copied word to the original correct model (Skinner, McLaughlin & Logan, 1997).
- **GROUP SIZE:** Whole class, small group, individual student
- **TIME:** Variable up to 15 minutes per session

# Response

## Cover-Copy-Compare Spelling Student Worksheet

Worksheet: Cover-Copy-Compare Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Spelling Words	Student Response
1. product	1a. product 1b.
2. laughter	2a. 2b.
3. string	3a. 3b.
4. summer	4a. 4b.
5. distract	5a. 5b.
6. neighbor	6a. 6b.
7. stable	7a. 7b.
8. geography	8a. 8b.
9. spool	9a. 9b.
10. strict	10a. 10b.

Cover-Copy-  
Compare Math  
Fact Student  
Worksheet

Math Facts	Student Response
1. $9 \times 7 = 63$	1a. $9 \times 7 = 63$
	1b.
2. $9 \times 2 = 18$	2a.
	2b.
3. $9 \times 4 = 36$	3a.
	3b.
4. $9 \times 1 = 9$	4a.
	4b.
5. $9 \times 9 = 81$	5a.
	5b.
6. $9 \times 6 = 54$	6a.
	6b.
7. $9 \times 3 = 27$	7a.
	7b.
8. $9 \times 5 = 45$	8a.
	8b.
9. $9 \times 10 = 90$	9a.
	9b.
10. $9 \times 8 = 72$	10a.
	10b.

Grade 1: Problem: *"Ricky cannot rapidly access values between 1 and 10 (number line)."*

Intervention: Building Number Sense Through a Counting Board Game



# Building Number Sense Through a Counting Board Game

**DESCRIPTION:** The student plays a number-based board game to build skills related to 'number sense', including number identification, counting, estimation skills, and ability to visualize and access specific number values using an internal number-line (Siegler, 2009).

Source: Siegler, R. S. (2009). *Improving the numerical understanding of children from low-income families. Child Development Perspectives*, 3(2), 118-124.

# Building Number Sense Through a Counting Board Game

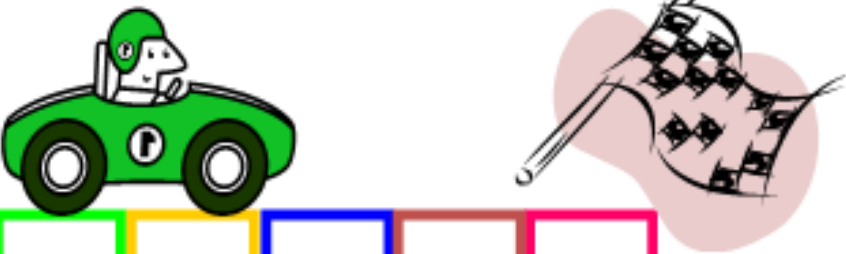
## MATERIALS:

- *Great Number Line Race!* form
- Spinner divided into two equal regions marked "1" and "2" respectively. (NOTE: If a spinner is not available, the interventionist can purchase a small blank wooden block from a crafts store and mark three of the sides of the block with the number "1" and three sides with the number "2".)

Source: Siegler, R. S. (2009). *Improving the numerical understanding of children from low-income families. Child Development Perspectives*, 3(2), 118-124.

# Response to Intervention

*The Great Number-Line Race!*



Start

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

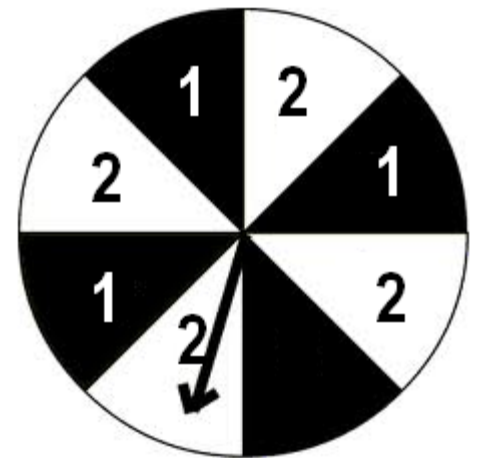
Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Start Time: \_\_\_\_\_: \_\_\_\_\_: \_\_\_\_\_ End Time: \_\_\_\_\_: \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Mark the winner for each game with an 'X' in the table below.

Players	Game 1	Game 2	Game 3	Game 4	Game 5	Game 6	Game 7
1: _____							
2: _____							

Source: Siegler, R. S. (2009). Improving the numerical understanding of children from low-income families. *Child Development Perspectives*, 3(2), 118-124.

Source: Siegler, R. S. (2009). Improving the numerical understanding of children from low-income families. *Child Development Perspectives*, 3(2), 118-124.



Grade 4: Problem: *"Rebecca commits careless errors on her math homework."*

Intervention: Math Self-Correction  
Checklist

# Student Self-Monitoring: Customized Math Self-Correction Checklists

**DESCRIPTION:** The teacher analyzes a particular student's pattern of errors commonly made when solving a math algorithm (on either computation or word problems) and develops a brief error self-correction checklist unique to that student. The student then uses this checklist to self-monitor—and when necessary correct—his or her performance on math worksheets before turning them in.

Sources: Dunlap, L. K., & Dunlap, G. (1989). A self-monitoring package for teaching subtraction with regrouping to students with learning disabilities. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*, 229, 309-314.

Uberti, H. Z., Mastropieri, M. A., & Scruggs, T. E. (2004). Check it off: Individualizing a math algorithm for students with disabilities via self-monitoring checklists. *Intervention in School and Clinic*, 39(5), 269-275.

## Response to Intervention

# Sample Self-Correction Checklist

### Math Self-Correction Checklist

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Rater: Student Classroom: \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: To the Student: BEFORE YOU START: Look at each of these goals for careful math work before beginning your assignment.  
AFTER EACH PROBLEM: Stop and rate YES or NO whether you performed each goal correctly.

	Problem#1	Problem#2	Problem#3	Problem#4	Problem#5
<i>I underlined all numbers at the top of the subtraction problem that were smaller than their matching numbers at the bottom of the problem.</i>  Did the student succeed in this behavior goal? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	__Y__N	__Y__N	__Y__N	__Y__N	__Y__N
<i>I wrote all numbers carefully so that I could read them easily and not mistake them for other numbers.</i>  Did the student succeed in this behavior goal? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	__Y__N	__Y__N	__Y__N	__Y__N	__Y__N
<i>I lined up all numbers in the right place-value columns.</i>  Did the student succeed in this behavior goal? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	__Y__N	__Y__N	__Y__N	__Y__N	__Y__N
<i>I rechecked all of my answers.</i>  Did the student succeed in this behavior goal? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	__Y__N	__Y__N	__Y__N	__Y__N	__Y__N

# Classroom Academic Interventions

## Lab Work: Select Interventions to Pilot.

Review this list of sample classroom reading/writing intervention ideas.



Select 1-2 ideas that you would MOST like to try in your classroom.

- Paired Reading

- Counting Board Game

- Group-Based Repeated Reading

**Math: Student Self-Monitoring**

- Math Self-Correction Checklist

# Classroom Academic Interventions



## Phonics/Alphabetics

- Incremental Rehearsal

## Comprehension

- Click or Clunk

## Vocabulary

- Reading Racetrack

## Spelling

- Cover-Copy-Compare

## Fluency

- Paired Reading
- Group-Based Repeated Reading


## Math: Number Sense

- Counting Board Game

## Math: Student Self-Monitoring

- Math Self-Correction Checklist





*RTI/MTSS Tiers.* What are the levels, or 'tiers', of academic intervention in RTI/MTSS?



## **MTSS: ACADEMICS**

### **Tier 3: High-Risk Students: 5%**

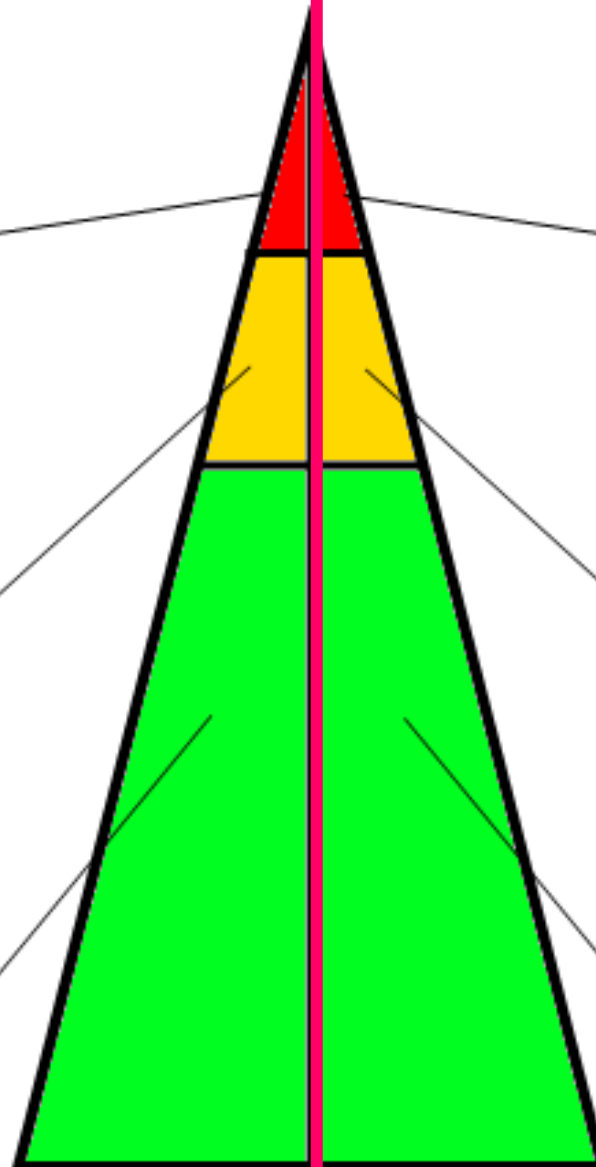
- Diagnostic assessment of academic problems
- RTI Team Meetings
- Customized/intensive academic intervention plan
- Daily progress-monitoring

### **Tier 2: At-Risk Students: 15%**

- Small-group interventions to address off-grade-level academic deficits
- Regular progress-monitoring

### **Tier 1: Universal: Core Instruction: 80%**

- Effective group instruction
- Universal academic screening
- Academic interventions for struggling students



## **MTSS: BEHAVIOR**

### **Tier 3: High-Risk Students: 5%**

- Functional Behavioral Assessments (FBAs)
- Behavior Intervention Plans (BIPs)
- Wrap-around RTI Team meetings
- Daily progress-monitoring

### **Tier 2: At-Risk Students: 15%**

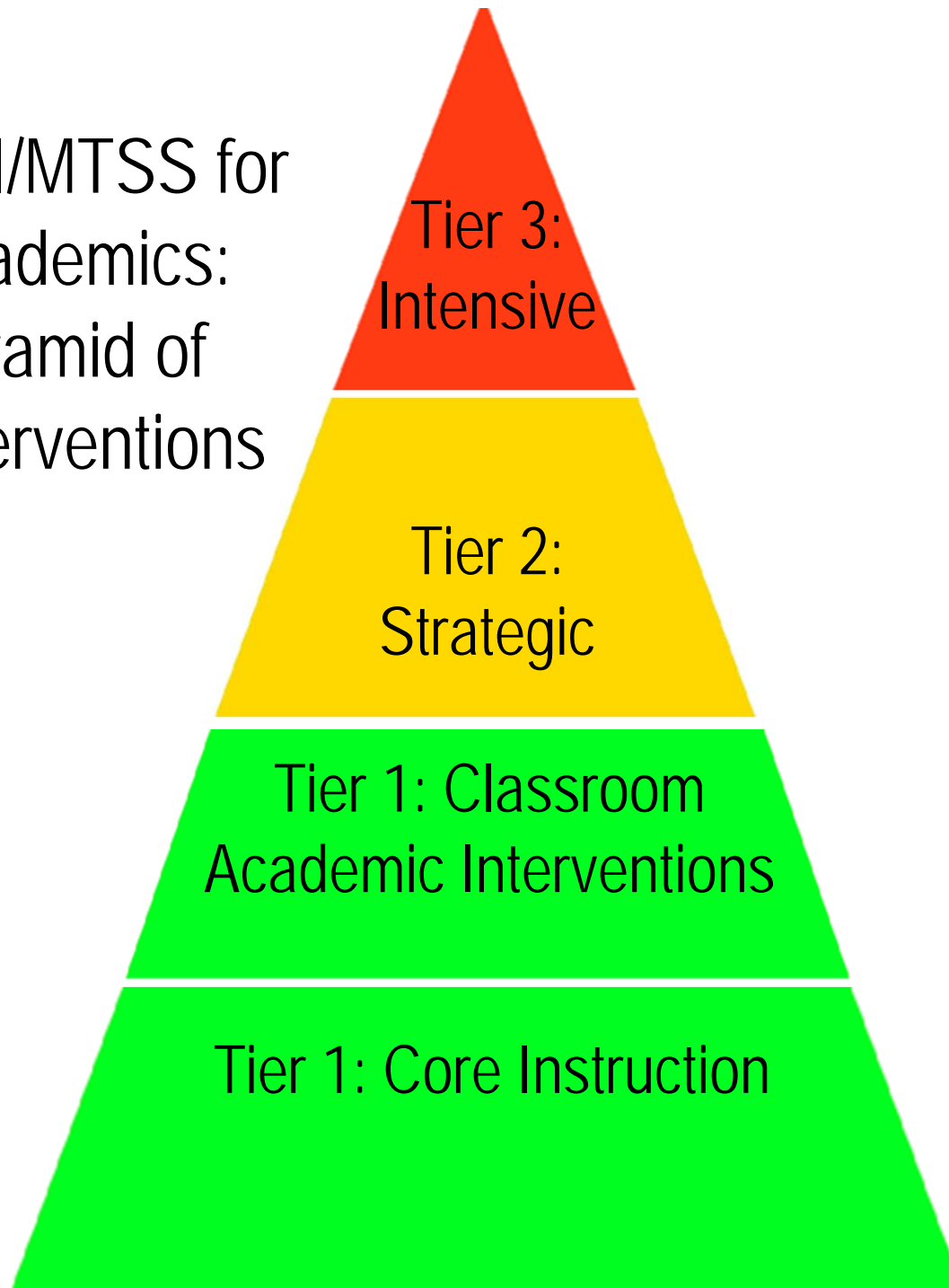
- Small-group interventions for emerging behavioral problems
- Regular progress-monitoring

### **Tier 1: Universal: Classroom Management: 80%**

- Clear behavioral expectations
- Effective class-wide management strategies
- Universal behavior screening

Source: Grosche, M., & Volpe, R. J. (2013). Response-to-intervention (RTI) as a model to facilitate inclusion for students with learning and behaviour problems. *European Journal of Special Needs Education*, 28, 254-269. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/08856257.2013.768452>

RTI/MTSS for  
Academics:  
Pyramid of  
Interventions



# RTI/MTSS for Academics: Pyramid of Interventions



Tier 1: Core Instruction

**Tier 1: Core Instruction (100%).** Teachers in all classrooms deliver effective instruction to reach the widest range of learners.

### Tier 1: Core Instruction. The teacher's whole-group instruction...

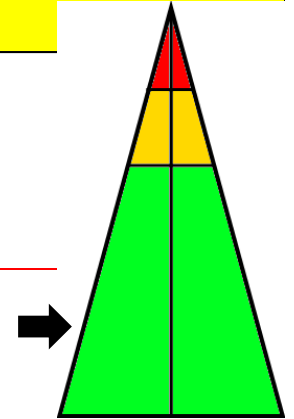
...maximizes **time devoted to instruction** by reducing or avoiding interruptions—e.g., overlong transitions, episodes of problem behavior, etc.



...provides **differentiated instruction** matched to student needs.

...incorporates essential elements of **explicit and systematic instruction** into lessons.

...for reading and mathematics instruction, uses programs and/or practices **supported by research**.



# MTSS: Tier 1: Core Instruction: Direct Instruction

Teachers can strengthen their lessons by incorporating into them elements of direct instruction.  
pp. 3-4

### How To: Implement Strong Core Instruction

Teacher:  Date:  Class/Lesson:

The checklist below summarizes the essential elements of a supported-instruction approach. When preparing lesson plans, instructors can use this resource as a 'pre-flight' checklist to make sure that their lessons reach the widest range of diverse learners.

1. Increase Access to Instruction	
Instructional Element	Notes
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Instructional Match.</b> Lesson content is appropriately matched to students' abilities (Burns, VanDerHeyden, & Boice, 2008).	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Content Review at Lesson Start.</b> The lesson opens with a brief review of concepts or material that have previously been presented. (Burns, VanDerHeyden, & Boice, 2008, Rosenshine, 2008).	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Preview of Lesson Goal(s).</b> At the start of instruction, the goals of the current day's lesson are shared (Rosenhine, 2008).	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chunking of New Material.</b> The teacher breaks new material into small, manageable increments, 'chunks', or steps (Rosenhine, 2008).	

2. Provided 'Scaffolding' Support	
Instructional Element	Notes
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Detailed Explanations &amp; Instructions.</b> Throughout the lesson, the teacher provides adequate explanations and detailed instructions for all concepts and materials being taught (Burns, VanDerHeyden, & Boice, 2008).	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Think-Alouds/Talk-Alouds.</b> When presenting cognitive strategies that cannot be observed directly, the teacher describes those strategies for students. Verbal explanations include 'talk-alouds' (e.g., the teacher describes and explains each step of a cognitive strategy) and 'think-alouds' (e.g., the teacher applies a cognitive strategy to a particular problem or task and verbalizes the steps in applying the strategy) (Burns, VanDerHeyden, & Boice, 2008, Rosenshine, 2008).	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Work Models.</b> The teacher makes exemplars of academic work (e.g., essays, completed math word problems) available to students for use as models (Rosenhine, 2008).	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Active Engagement.</b> The teacher ensures that the lesson engages the student in 'active accurate responding' (Skinner, Pappas & Davis, 2005) often enough to capture student attention and to optimize learning.	

# How to: Implement Strong Core Instruction

## 1. Access to Instruction

☐ Instructional Match

☐ Content Review at Lesson Start

☐ Preview of Lesson Goal(s)

☐ Chunking of New Material

## 2. 'Scaffolding' Support

☐ Detailed Explanations & Instructions

☐ Talk Alouds/Think Alouds

☐ Work Models

☐ Active Engagement

☐ Collaborative Assignments

☐ Checks for Understanding

## 2. 'Scaffolding' Support (Cont.)

☐ Group Responding

☐ High Rate of Student Success

☐ Brisk Rate of Instruction

☐ Fix-Up Strategies

## 3. Timely Performance Feedback

☐ Regular Feedback

☐ Step-by-Step Checklists

## 4. Opportunities for Review/ Practice

☐ Spacing of Practice Throughout Lesson

☐ Guided Practice

☐ Support for Independent Practice

☐ Distributed Practice

# How To Implement Strong Core Instruction

## *Increase Access to Instruction*

1. **Instructional Match.** Lesson content is appropriately matched to students' abilities (Burns, VanDerHeyden, & Boice, 2008).
2. **Content Review at Lesson Start.** The lesson opens with a brief review of concepts or material that have previously been presented. (Burns, VanDerHeyden, & Boice, 2008, Rosenshine, 2008).



# How To Implement Strong Core Instruction

## *Increase Access to Instruction*

3. **Preview of Lesson Goal(s).** At the start of instruction, the goals of the current day's lesson are shared (Rosenshine, 2008).
4. **Chunking of New Material.** The teacher breaks new material into small, manageable increments, 'chunks', or steps (Rosenshine, 2008).

# How to: Implement Strong Core Instruction

## 1. Access to Instruction

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☐ Distributed Practice

# Motivating Students Through Collaboration: Numbered Heads Together (Online)

**The Need.** Teacher questioning during whole-group instruction is a key way for instructors to monitor student understanding of content. When questioning:

- instructors should use a mix of closed-response queries (i.e., limited number of correct responses) and open-response questions (i.e., wide range of acceptable answers, opinions, or judgments).
- students should have enough wait-time to formulate an adequate answer.,
- the teacher should provide targeted performance feedback (Maheady et al., 2006).



# Motivating Students Through Collaboration: Numbered Heads Together

- **Solution.** Numbered Heads Together is an instructional technique build upon peer collaboration that provides the supports and structure necessary to promote effective teacher questioning and student responding (Maheady et al., 2006). This technique can be useful for students with emotional/behavioral disorders (EBD) (Hunter & Haydon, 2013).

# Motivating Students Through Collaboration: Numbered Heads Together

**Procedure:** During whole-group instruction, Numbered Heads Together is implemented using the following steps:

1. **Create teams.** The teacher divides the class into 4-person teams. Ideally, each team includes a mix of high, average, and low-achieving students. Students in each team assign themselves the numbers 1 through 4. (Note: If a team has only 3 members, one student takes two numbers: 3 and 4.)

# Motivating Students Through Collaboration: Numbered Heads Together

2. **State a question.** The teacher poses separate queries to the class. After each question, the instructor tells students to *"put your heads together, think of the best answer you can, and make sure that everybody in your group knows that answer."*
3. **Allow think-time.** The teacher gives students 30 seconds to discuss an answer in their groups.

# Motivating Students Through Collaboration: Numbered Heads Together

4. **Elicit student responses.** The teacher randomly selects a number from 1-4 and says, *"All number [1, 2, 3, or 4] students who know the answer, raise your hand."* The teacher then calls on one student with hand raised and asks him or her to give the answer. The teacher next says, *"How many [1, 2, 3, or 4] students think that that answer is correct? Raise your hand."* [Optional: The teacher can call on additional students with hand raised to elaborate on a previous student's answer.]

# How to: Implement Strong Core Instruction

## 1. Access to Instruction

☐ Instructional Match

☐ Content Review at Lesson Start

☐ Preview of Lesson Goal(s)

☐ Chunking of New Material

## 2. 'Scaffolding' Support

☐ Detailed Explanations & Instructions

☐ Talk Alouds/Think Alouds

☐ Work Models

☐ Active Engagement

☐ Collaborative Assignments

☐ Checks for Understanding

## 2. 'Scaffolding' Support (Cont.)

☐ Group Responding

☐ High Rate of Student Success

☐ Brisk Rate of Instruction

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## 3. Timely Performance Feedback

☐ Regular Feedback

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## 4. Opportunities for Review/ Practice

☐ Spacing of Practice Throughout Lesson

☐ Guided Practice

☐ Support for Independent Practice

☐ Distributed Practice



# How to: Implement Strong Core Instruction

## 1. Access to Instruction

☐ Instructional Match

☐ Co  
☐ Pre  
**Activity: Strong Direct Instruction**

☐ Ch 1. Review this list of elements of **direct instruction**.

2. Select the top 1-2 that you find to be **most challenging** to accomplish with your students.

☐ Active Engagement

☐ Collaborative Assignments

☐ Checks for Understanding

## 2. 'Scaffolding' Support (Cont.)

☐ Group Responding

☐ High Rate of Student Success

☐ Brisk Rate of Instruction

☐ Fix-Up Strategies

**Timely Performance Feedback**

☐ Regular Feedback

☐ Step-by-Step Checklists

**Opportunities for Review/ Practice**

☐ Spacing of Practice Throughout Lesson

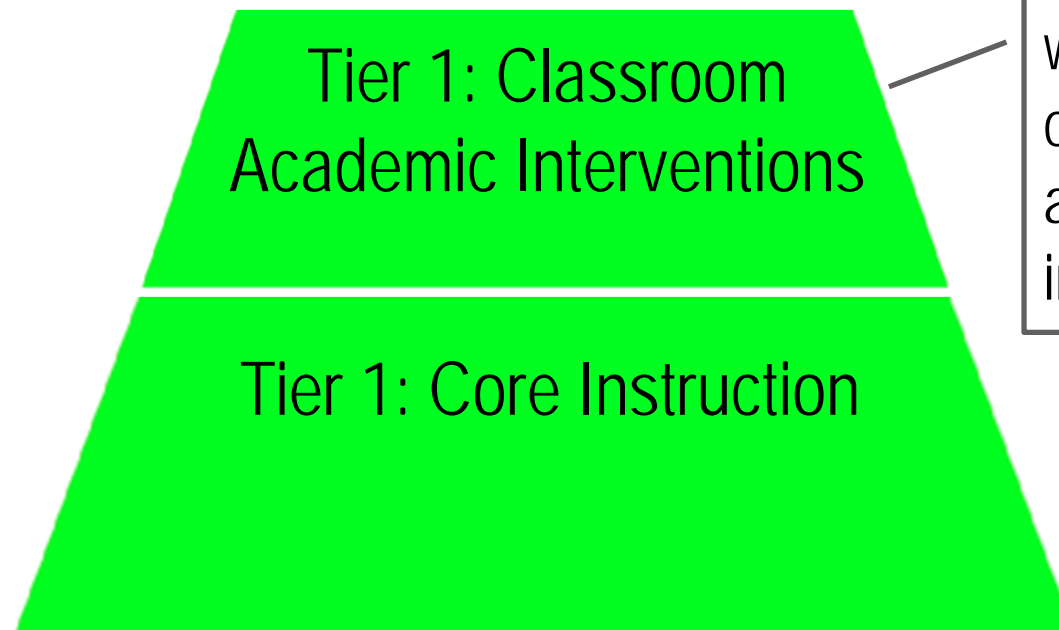
☐ Guided Practice

☐ Support for Independent Practice

☐ Distributed Practice



# RTI/MTSS for Academics: Pyramid of Interventions



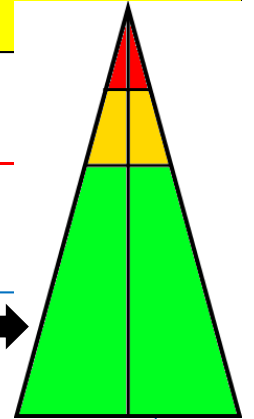
**Tier 1: Classroom Intervention.** The classroom teacher provides Tier 1 interventions to those individual students with academic difficulties who need additional classroom support to achieve success in core instruction.

### Tier 1: Classroom Intervention. The teacher...

...has access to a bank of academic intervention ideas and data-collection methods accessible by all staff.



...uses standardized form(s) to record classroom interventions.



...defines the student's presenting academic problem(s) in clear and specific terms.



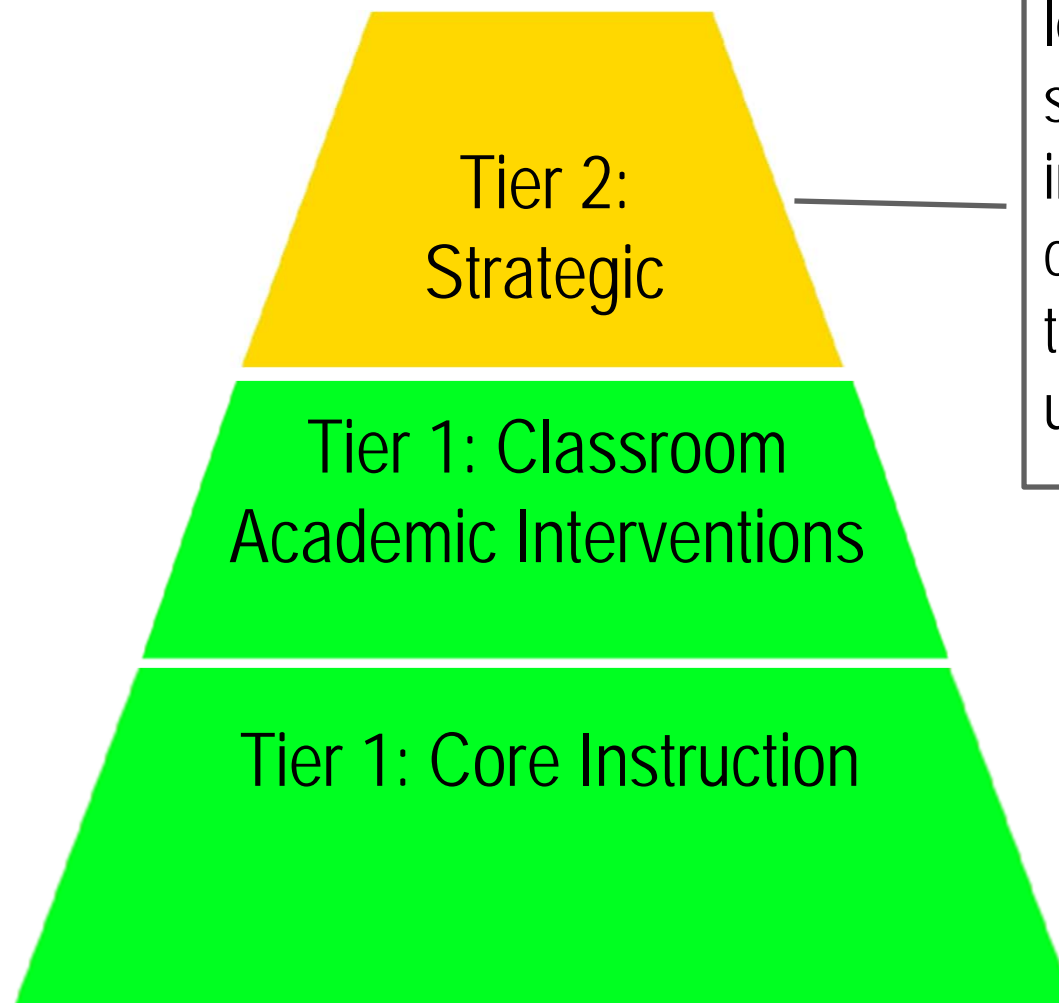
...selects method(s) to monitor student progress, setting a goal and collecting baseline data.



...chooses appropriate academic intervention(s) supported by research.



# RTI/MTSS for Academics: Pyramid of II



**Tier 2: Strategic Intervention (10-15%).** Students with off-grade-level skill deficits receive supplemental small-group interventions outside of core instruction to fill in those gaps. Interventions used are research-based.

### Tier 2: Supplemental Intervention. At Tier 2,...

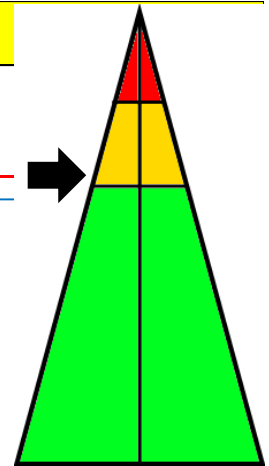
...students enter and exit Tier 2 services based primarily on the objective data of the school-wide screening tool(s) (e.g., 20-25th% or below), with teacher nomination as only a minor source of recruitment.

...interventions are documented in writing before Tier 2 services begin, and Tier 2 plans are archived electronically for easy access.

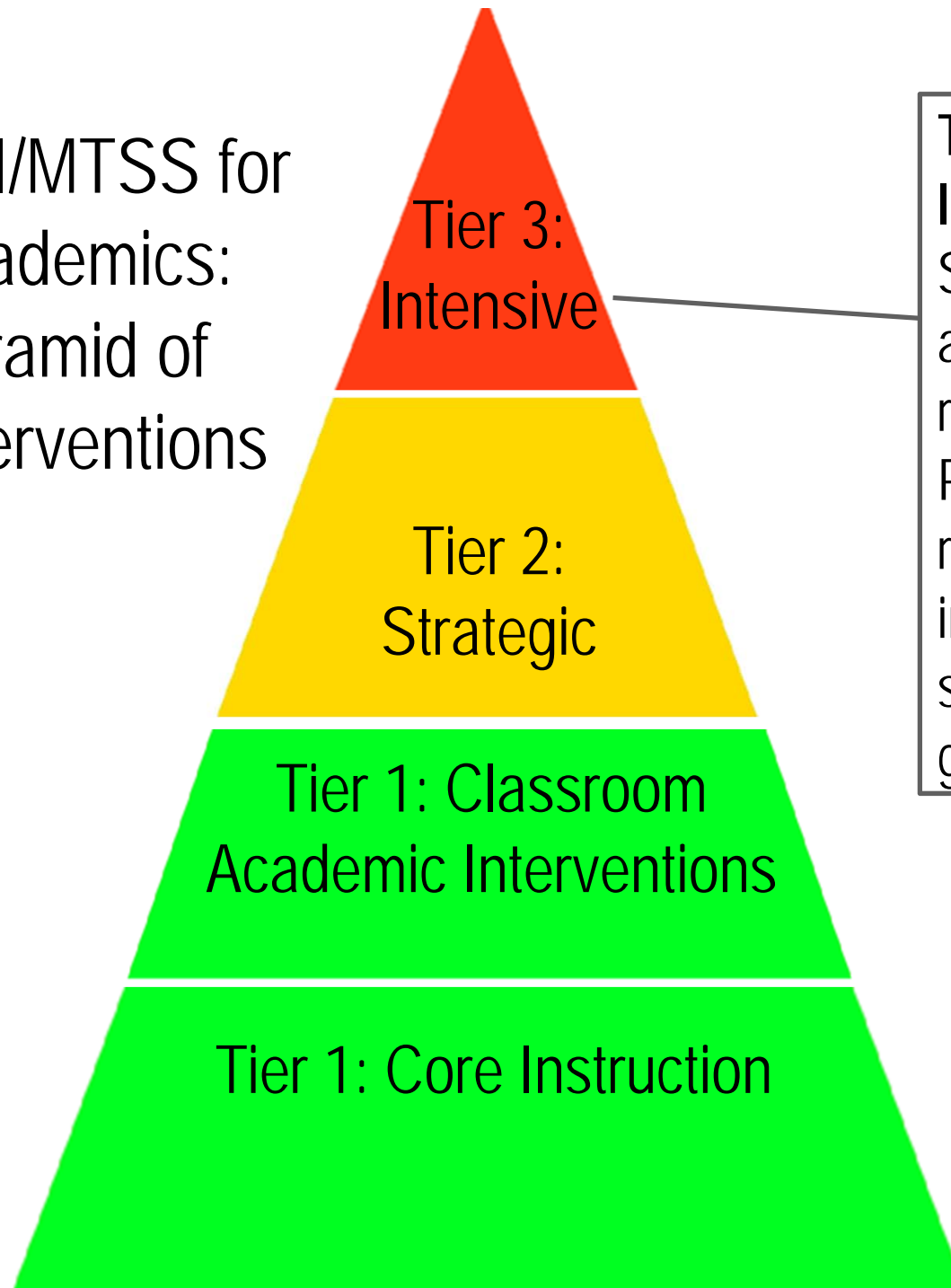
...the interventionist employs academic programs or practices supported by research.

...the interventionist collects progress-monitoring data at least twice per month to monitor the success of the intervention.

...interventions seek to fix 'off-grade-level' academic deficits—and are not simply a reteaching of classroom instruction .

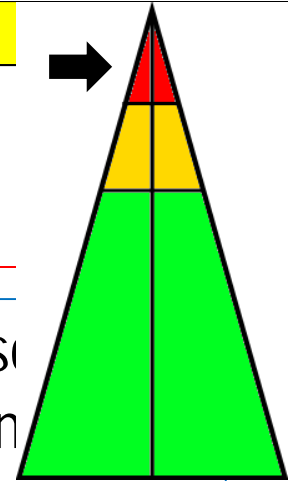


RTI/MTSS for  
Academics:  
Pyramid of  
Interventions



**Tier 3: Intensive Intervention (1-5%).**  
Students with intensive academic gaps are reviewed by the RTI/MTSS Problem-Solving Team and receive a customized intervention plan. Most students at Tier 3 are **still** general-education.

### Tier 3: Intensive Intervention. The RTI Problem-Solving Team...



...meets on referred students within 1-2 weeks of initial referral.



...follows a standardized problem-solving meeting format, with defined meeting and steps.



...produces a written record of RTI /MTSS Team meeting discussion, including a customized intervention plan.




...expects that providers of Tier 3 interventions will collect data at least weekly to monitor student progress.

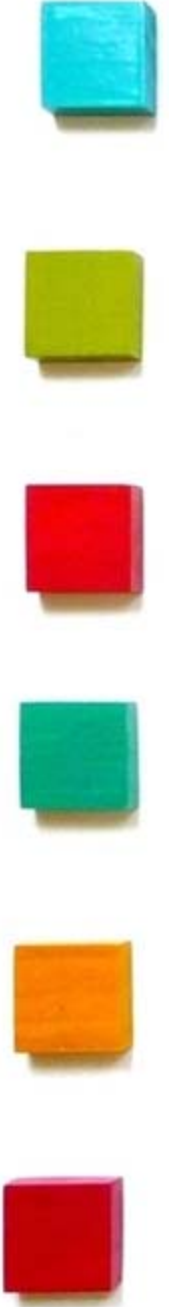


...routinely schedules follow-up meetings 6-8 instructional weeks after the initial meeting to evaluate intervention outcomes.





*Pivot Points.* What are key classroom competencies that ANY student needs for school success?





# Handout p. 2

## The Struggling Student in a General-Education Setting: Pivot Points



**Directions.** The student competencies in the table below represent 'pivot points'—opportunities for educators to support the at-risk student to 'pivot' them toward school success. Number in descending order the 5 competencies that you believe pose the greatest challenge for students in your classroom or school to attain.

Ranking	Student Competency
	A. <b>Basic Academic Skills.</b> The student has sufficient mastery of basic academic skills (e.g., reading fluency) to complete classwork.
	B. <b>Academic Survival Skills.</b> The student possesses the academic survival skills (e.g., homework skills, time management, organization) necessary to manage their learning.
	C. <b>Work Completion.</b> The student independently completes in-class work and homework.
	D. <b>Transitions.</b> The student flexibly adapts to changing academic routines and behavioral expectations across activities and settings (e.g., content-area classes; specials).
	E. <b>Attentional Focus.</b> The student has a grade- or age-appropriate ability to focus attention in large and small groups and when working independently.
	F. <b>Emotional Control.</b> The student manages emotions across settings, responding appropriately to setbacks and frustrations.
	G. <b>Peer Interactions.</b> The student collaborates productively and has positive social interactions with peers.
	H. <b>Self-Efficacy.</b> The student possesses a positive view of their academic abilities, believing that increased effort paired with effective work practices will result in improved outcomes ('growth mindset').
	I. <b>Self-Understanding.</b> The student can articulate their relative patterns of strength and weakness in academic skills, general conduct, and social-emotional functioning.
	J. <b>Self-Advocacy.</b> The student advocates for their needs and negotiates effectively with adults.

# The Struggling Student in a General-Education Setting: Pivot Points



Successful students must be able to juggle many competencies simultaneously as they negotiate complex classroom demands.

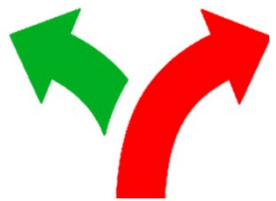
The following slides present 10 such pivot points that include competencies in academics, behavior, self-management, and motivation.

Teachers can play an important role in supporting the struggling student by identifying potentially weak pivot points and assisting the learner to attain them.

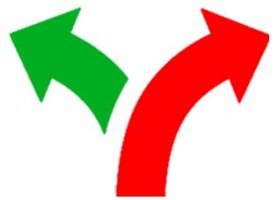
## Pivot Points: Strengthening the Student Skillset



# Pivot Points: The Struggling Student in a General Education Setting



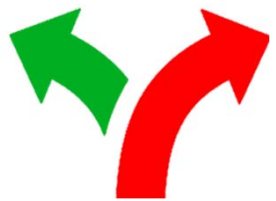
**A. Basic Academic Skills.** The student has sufficient mastery of basic academic skills (e.g., reading fluency) to complete classwork.



**B. Academic Survival Skills.** The student possesses the academic survival skills (e.g. homework skills, time management, organization) necessary to manage their learning.



# Pivot Points: The Struggling Student in a General Education Setting



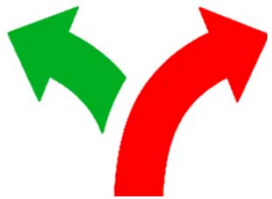
**C. Work Completion.** The student independently completes in-class work and homework.



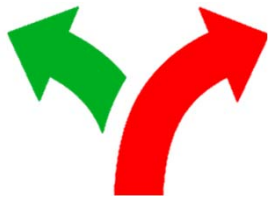
**D. Transitions.** The student flexibly adapts to changing academic routines and behavioral expectations across activities and settings (e.g., content-area classes; specials).



# Pivot Points: The Struggling Student in a General Education Setting



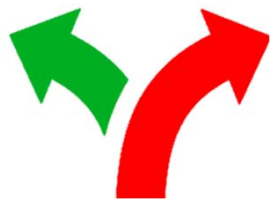
**E. Attentional Focus.** The student has a grade- or age-appropriate ability to focus attention in large and small groups and when working independently.



**F. Emotional Control.** The student manages emotions across settings, responding appropriately to setbacks and frustrations.



# Pivot Points: The Struggling Student in a General Education Setting



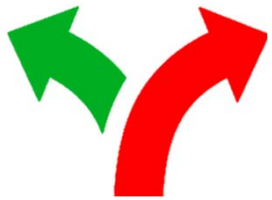
**G. Peer Interactions.** The student collaborates productively and has positive social interactions with peers.



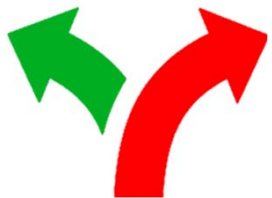
**H. Self-Efficacy.** The student possesses a positive view of their academic abilities, believing that increased effort paired with effective work practices will result in improved outcomes ('growth mindset').



# Pivot Points: The Struggling Student in a General Education Setting



- I. **Self-Understanding.** The student can articulate their relative patterns of strength and weakness in academic skills, general conduct, and social-emotional functioning.



- J. **Self-Advocacy.** The student advocates for their needs and negotiates effectively with adults.





# Pivot Points: The Struggling Student in a General-Education Setting: ACTIVITY



A. **Basic Academic Skills.** The student has sufficient mastery of

**DIRECTIONS.** Review the 10 'pivot points' discussed today.

1. Select up to 3 that you or your school find most challenging.
2. Number those selected in order from greatest ('1') to least ('3') importance.
3. Be prepared to report out.

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