Improving your instruction: High leverage practices that work!

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Overview

• What is a high leverage practice (HLP)?
• Why should we focus on HLPs?
• What HLPs are endorsed by CEC?
• How can HLPs be implemented across the tiers of instruction? A podcast and video demonstration
• What additional resources will be coming from CEC to help you implement HLPs?
Everybody is talking about HLPs

But what are they?
High Leverage Practices or HLPs

- are practices that are foundational to effective teaching in special education.

Explicit instruction

Collaborate with families and professionals
To be an HLP: The practice must

- Be fundamental to effective teaching
- Used frequently by teachers
- Cut across instructional content
- Apply to many age levels
- Apply to different types of learners
- Improve student outcomes
You also must be able to

• Break the HLP down into smaller parts and instruct teachers in how to use it
Why should we focus on HLPs?

- Every student deserves a skilled teacher
- Other professions do not allow one to practice without demonstrating a level of skill
- Skilled teaching can be decomposed and taught
- We can define effective practice for teachers, assess it, and then improve it!
- We can create a seamless system of education to support teachers throughout their career.
Does this mean we should forget about evidence based practice?

Not at all!

- Many HLPs are necessary for implementing evidence-based practices successfully (e.g., providing feedback)
Other HLPs are evidence-based practices

• Functional behavior assessment is an evidence-based practice
So who developed the HLPs for special education teachers?
A Collaborative Process

• Partnership between:

  • Collaboration for Effective Educator Development, Accountability and Reform (CEEDAR) Center

  • Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)

  • CEC’s Teacher Education Division (TED)
Process for Developing the HLPs

- Professional Standards and Practice Committee approved proposal to develop High Leverage Practices September 2014

- CEC Board approved the proposal and commissioned a High Leverage Practices Work Group (HLP Writing Team) November 2014
HLP Writing Team Members

- James McLeskey, Chair, University of Florida & CEEDAR Center
- Mary-Dean Barringer, Council of the Chief State School Officers and First CEC Teacher of the Year
- Bonnie Billingsley, Virginia Tech
- Mary Brownell, University of Florida & CEEDAR Center
- Dia Jackson, American Institutes for Research
- Michael Kennedy, University of Virginia
- Tim Lewis, University of Missouri
- Larry Maheady, SUNY, Buffalo State
- Jackie Rodriguez, College of William and Mary
- Mary Catherine Scheeler, Pennsylvania State University
- Judy Winn, University of WI – Milwaukee
- Deb Ziegler, CEC Staff
Process for Developing the HLPs

- First meeting of HLP Writing Team--January 2015
  - Collaboration, Assessment, Social/Behavior, Instruction
  - Agreed on criteria for identifying HLPs
  - Generated list of about 40 practices
  - Reduced to list of 26 practices by March for broad based input from CEC members
Process for Developing the HLPs

- Extensive CEC member input—April to December 2015
  - Focus groups (teachers, administrators, teacher educators)
  - Surveys
  - Conference presentations
Process for Developing the HLPs

- January 2015—about 40 practices
- March 2015—26 HLPs
- October 2015—23 HLPs
- January 2016—22 HLPs
- April 2016—Input from CEC Representative Assembly
- July 2016—CEC Board approval
- Disseminated to CEC membership
They’re here!

• What every special educator needs to know on Day 1
• 22 High-Leverage Practices for special educators
  • Collaboration
  • Assessment
  • Social/emotional/behavioral
  • Instruction
CEC and CEEDAR

- We put a stake in the ground.
- If we are going to improve practice, we have to define those practices that are most fundamental to good teaching and providing FAPE to students with disabilities.
- We have to focus teacher preparation and continuing professional learning (PD) on these practices.
CEC and CEEDAR

- Resources so special educators (and others) learn about the HLPs
- Special educators (and others) learn to use the HLPs
How are we helping teachers learn to use the HLPs?
Series of HLP Videos

Purpose:

• Collaborate across federal technical assistance providers to video series demonstrating effective use of HLPs

Design:

• Introduce each HLP and provide a demonstration
  • Definition of each HLP
  • Brief review of research
  • Several brief videos of general education and special education teachers implementing the HLP

Goals:

• Establish a common language and vision of HLPs across both general and special educators;

• Demonstrate use and differentiation of the HLPs for students with increasing degrees of intensity,

• Offer free, universally available videos to support professional learning and implementation fidelity at the preservice and inservice levels
Series of HLP Videos

What they are:

- A resource to **augment** training/professional learning
- A demonstration of HLP practice across degrees of intensity
- A portrayal of teachers’ implementation of an HLP

What they are not:

- A complete resource for training/professional learning
- A demonstration of each tier across various settings
- A depiction of all features of quality instruction/student engagement
HLP Videos

HLP Introduction

Introducing:
High Leverage Practices for Students with Disabilities

Video 1: HLP 16: Explicit Instruction

High Leverage Practice #16: Use Explicit Instruction
HLP Website

#16: Explicit Instruction
#8: Constructive Feedback
#15: Scaffold Instruction
#18: Student Engagement
#7: Respectful Environment
#9: Social Behaviors
#14: Metacognition
#19: Assistive and Instructional Technology

#12: Systemic Instruction
#21: Intensive Instruction
#13: Adapt Curriculum Task & Materials
#17: Flexible Grouping
#11: Short & Long Term Goals
#20: Maintain & Generalize Skills
#10: Conduct Behavioral Assessments
HLP Video Page

- Stand-alone videos for case study/video analysis
- Increased intensity demonstration of HLPs
- Across various content and context
- Reflection probes and examples
- Probes to guide reflection
  Example reflection embedded within the video
- Links to additional resources to support HLP implementation
Where to find HLP Resources

- The Book
  - April 2017
- Website
  - HighLeveragePractices.org
CEC’s Division of Early Childhood Recommended Practices (Birth-Age 5)

• Also included:

  • DEC Recommended Practices (RP)
  • DEC RP with Embedded Examples
  • DEC RP Glossary
  • DEC RPs with Interactive Glossary
Initiatives to date AND What’s next?

- **TEACHING Exceptional Children article**
  - May/June 2017

- **HLP Press Conference**

- **HLP Webinar**
  - October 2017
Initiatives to date AND What’s next?

- Sharing HLPs with external partners and organizations
Initiatives to date AND What’s next?

- CEC work group considering the potential integration of HLPs into the next iteration of CEC Initial and Advanced Professional Preparation Standards (Fall 2017-2020)

- HLP Keynote and Session – CEC’s Teacher Education Division Conference, Savannah, Georgia (November 2017)
Initiatives to date AND What’s next?

- HLP Instructional Videos
- HLP CEC Podcasts
- HLP articles in CEC’s Special Education Today
- CEC Off the Shelf
- *Teaching Exceptional Children* Special HLP Edition – “Putting HLPs into Practice” – March/April 2018
Initiatives to date AND What’s next?

- HLP Session – CEC Annual Convention and Expo, Tampa, Florida (February 2018)
- HLP Presentations at Selected Conferences and Meetings
  - CCSSO – October 2017 and February 2018
- HLP Resources for Higher Education Faculty – Curricula Development
Initiatives to date AND What’s next?

- HLP Resources for LEA Administrators and Special Education Teachers – Teacher Evaluation and Professional Development
- HLP Introductory Professional Development Toolkit – LEA Administrators and Special Education Teachers
- HLPs for the Inclusive Classroom Book - Co-published, CEC & Routledge
Questions?
References
