Practice-Based Approaches to Improving Teacher Education

Mary T. Brownell, James McLeskey, Louise Spear-Swerling, Brian Barber, & Amber Benedict
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Today

✧ Discuss the importance of practice to improving teacher education
✧ Describe the key features of effective practice
✧ Discuss how high leverage practices can be used as a foundation for a practice-based approach
✧ Provide two examples of practice-based experiences
Implementing RTI

“To acquire the research-based knowledge and skills for implementing RTI, novice teachers must participate in initial preparation programs that enable them to acquire the knowledge and skill to participate successfully in RTI”.

Brownell, Chard, Benedict, and Lignugaris-Kraft, in press
Acquisition of knowledge and skill

Teachers need sufficient time to practice applying knowledge and skill in increasingly complex settings.
Heterogeneous and coursework based nature of teacher preparation
Designing Effective Practice: The Science Of Learning
3 Overarching qualities
Duration
Cohesiveness
INDIVIDUAL QUALITIES
Modeling
Spaced or Distributed

Spaced Practice Effects

- Practice
- Test

Spaced Learning Curve

Normal Learning Curve

Spaced Forgetting Curve

Normal Forgetting Curve

Designing mLearning, Clark N. Quinn, 2011
Varied or interleaved

Blocking vs interleaving

Topic 1  Topic 2  Topic 3  Topic 4  Topic 5  Topic 6

Topic 1  Topic 3  Topic 5  Topic 4  Topic 6  Topic 2

Simplicity  Complexity
Coaching & feedback
Analysis & reflection
CEEDAR tool
Focus
Focus on what?

- Current practice—focus on everything
- Learning to use complex practices is often left to chance
Also focus on

✧ A limited number of complex teaching practices
✧ Core curriculum for teacher education programs
What practices?

- Effective in improving student outcomes
- Used frequently by teachers
- Broadly applicable across content areas
- Fundamental to effective teaching
What other practices?

- Limited in number (about 20)
- Novices can learn to use the practice
- Can be taught during preparation program
Goal

 Produce a teacher with a foundation of critical skills when entering the classroom
High Leverage Practices

✧ CEC HLPs for K-12 SPE teachers
✧ Grouped into four areas
  – Collaboration
  – Assessment
  – Instruction
  – Social/Behavior
More Examples of HLPs

✧ Collaboration
  – Collaborate with other professionals to improve student success

✧ Assessment
  – Use assessment data, analyze instructional practices, and make necessary adjustments that improve student outcomes
Examples of HLPs

✧ Social/Behavior
  - Conduct FBAs to develop individual student behavior support plans

✧ Instruction
  - Use explicit instruction
  - Use flexible grouping
More information

✧ Retrieved from [The CEEDAR Center Website](#)
✧ **Contact:** mcleskey@coe.ufl.edu