

Handy Tips to use in Your Direct Instruction Classrooms

The careful use of corrections to reach mastery with your students can not be stressed too much. Learning the corrections of the various Direct Instruction programs is integral to your students success.

When one is initially learning to effectively use the Direct instruction programs, it easy to become overwhelmed by all the details of instruction during the lesson presentations. Following the script; pausing; signaling; praising and watching and listening to the group requires a great deal of concentration. There is also the added factor of listening for errors and correcting them promptly and efficiently, and with the correct wording. The wording of the various corrections used in the Direct Instruction programs are not merely the idea of a curriculum writer at a remote publishing company. The corrections were carefully developed over time in field testing with real teachers and real students. The wording was carefully written and refined based on the field testing results. The careful and consistent use of the wording in corrections as specified in the Direct Instruction programs will always lead to the best results.

You may carefully study and memorize the corrections prior to your lesson presentations, but experience difficulty remembering them as the errors occur. You may be in the middle of a format... hear an error... freeze and say to yourself " I know I heard an error, and I know I am supposed to do something, but I cannot remember what to do " and instead go on with the lesson.

There is a easy way to help remember the precise wording of corrections for when you " freeze and forget ". Get a nice sized piece of poster board and write out the exact wording of the corrections you need from your teacher guide or manual. Place this poster on the wall you face when you are teaching. Make sure the writing is large enough so that you can see it from where your are teaching . As you teach, and you hear an error, stop and look up at the correction. If you have to read it out loud, do so. The students do not seem to notice when this occurs. Doing this every time you hear an error helps the correction become very automatic. If you are using a program with multiple corrections, you can use different color poster boards. For example, in Reading Mastery 2, you can have a yellow poster for word reading errors; an orange poster for story reading errors ; a white poster for the silent e corrections and a blue poster for the doubling letter correction. Try this out and let me know if it worked for you.