

Reading Recovery Program

Jurisdiction: Yukon

Contact: Yukon Reading Recovery Centre

Level: K - 12

Theme: Classroom Based Practices

Description of Practice:

This program is an early intervention program for six year old, Grade One students who need additional support learning to read and write. In the Yukon, Reading Recovery™ is part of the early intervention initiative of the Department of Education. This program supplements regular classroom instruction.

Background:

The Reading Recovery™ program is based on intensive classroom research that studies how children learn to read and write. Students learn strategies that help them become independent readers and writers who can fully participate in their regular classroom program. Reading Recovery™ teachers are experienced classroom educators who have taken a year-long training program with a Teacher Leader in Reading Recovery™. Reading Recovery™ teachers are visited and coached by Teacher Leaders throughout their first year. Ongoing professional development is necessary to maintain teaching effectiveness.

Development:

At the beginning of the school year, children are selected for Reading Recovery™ by their classroom teacher based on observation of six tasks, which are:

- Letter identification
- Word identification
- Concepts about print
- Writing vocabulary
- Hearing sounds in words
- Text reading

In the first two weeks of the program, the teacher observes what the child already knows and this becomes the foundation for instruction. It is important to note that the Reading Recovery™ lesson is one part of the child's literacy program. It supports the work in the regular classroom.

Evidence:

Reading Recovery™ has two positive outcomes:

The program continues until the child develops an effective processing system and can work independently with the support of regular classroom instruction.

A recommendation is made for additional assessment. School staff collaborate to plan future learning opportunities for the child.

Reading Recovery™ was introduced into eight Yukon schools in 1997 and has expanded to twenty schools since then. Most students complete the Reading Recovery™ program in 12 – 20 weeks.

Adaptability:

Key lessons learned: The Reading Recovery™ program starts with what the child knows and builds the child's confidence in reading and writing from that point. Each program is shaped by the individual literacy needs of the child.

Further information:

Jeanette McCrie, Primary Programs Coordinator

Please visit the Government of Yukon, Department of Education website at:
http://www.education.gov.yk.ca/psb/reading_recovery.html.

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