

Reading Matters: Supporting Struggling Readers K-5 Units: 2 (Elective)

Course Syllabus

Description:

This course addresses the fundamental concept that all learners are special and that they all have special needs. It provides a comprehensive approach to helping students with special needs. Unique to this course is the way it presents successful strategies in word identification, comprehension, fluency, and motivation, as well as strategies for assessment in each of these areas. Participants will be challenged to examine and rethink literacy interventions. Course reading will include research-based findings as well as texts that model best practices.

Goals:

Through analysis of research-based findings, participants will be prepared to:

- assess student understanding, knowledge, skills and strategies that are related to success in reading.
- identify student learning needs in word identification, comprehension, fluency and motivation.
- develop and organize instruction to meet the diverse student needs in their classrooms; and
- plan and implement an appropriate intervention program for a struggling reader (case study).

Recommended Text (Select one):

Allington, Richard L. (2001). *What Really Matters for Struggling Readers: Designing Research-Based Programs*. New York: Addison-Wesley Educational Publishers Inc.

Reutzel, D. Ray and Cooter, Robert B., Jr. *Balanced Reading Strategies and Practices: Assessing and Assisting Readers with Special Needs*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, Inc.

Shanker, James L. and Ekwall, Eldon E. (2003). *Locating and Correcting Reading Difficulties*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Merrill Prentice Hall.

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Course Requirements:

- Attendance and Participation
- Evidence of Reading
- Case Study
- Project and Demonstration