Role of Speech-Language Pathologists in RTI

*Read It: Reading with Explicit and Direct Instruction and Technology: An RtI Model*

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RTI and Changes in the Role of School Based SLP: An Exploration of the Evidence Base

- Increased Involvement in Literacy Instruction and Intervention
  - ASHA’s position statement on the roles and responsibilities of SLPs in reading and writing states that language and literacy are inextricably linked and SLPs are crucial in the development of literacy in children with communication disorders, as well as integral members of the teams involved in the literacy development of all students

- Increased collaboration within the school
  - Helping to implement RtI within the school and educate faculty regarding RtI policy
  - Providing information to classroom teachers regarding the relationship between language and literacy learning
  - Participating as part of a problem solving team in identifying the needs of individual students

- Increased involvement in the classroom (Tier 1)
  - Aiding in universal screenings
  - Co-planning and co-teaching lessons
  - Providing targeted intervention services in the classroom

- New Involvement with Tier 2 Students
  - “At risk” students are now included in the SLPs workload
  - Designing and implementing targeted intervention services
  - Progress monitoring of students throughout their time in Tier 2
  - Establishing cut-off points for referral to Tier 3 (Special Education) or return to the classroom

(Justice, L.M., 2006; Ehren, B.J., Montgomery, J., Rudebusch, J., & Whitmire, K.; ASHA (2001))

How does Read It! Address RtI?

- Read It! works to intervene early for students that have been identified as below proficient readers.
- Read It! bases interventions upon scientifically-based curricula.
- Read It! monitors each student’s progress two to three times during each semester.
- Strengths and challenges are identified in specific areas and challenges are targeted during intervention.

Curriculum within the Read It Program

**Phonics Boost**

- Phonics Boost is 80 lessons that teach phonics concepts in a fast-paced, multi-sensory, systematic and explicit manner. The lessons improve reading skills of students in grades 1 to 8.
- Multi-Sensory
- Includes phonemic awareness in the first 20 lessons
- Focus on accuracy
- Real and nonsense words in isolation, real words in phrases and sentences
- Product Information: Phonics Boost
  - Really Great Reading Company
  - www.reallygreatreading.com
  - (866) 401-7323

**Lexia: Computer Instruction**

- Lexia is a computer-assisted instruction software program
- Lexia is designed to supplement direct instruction.
- Students work independently, at their own pace, and instruction is individualized
- Facilitates practice of sound, letter, word, and sentence recognition skills.
- Lexia includes multi-sensory activities that pair audio/visual matching such as hearing a speech sound with a tactile motor response.
Activities provide practice and direct reinforcement of rule-based word attack strategies.

Product Information: Lexia Learning Systems, Inc.

Sounds and Letters Phonemic Awareness Drills

- A structured Language! Approach to phonemic awareness
- Sequential lessons that address phonemic awareness skills such as rhyming, initial sound identification, phoneme segmentation, phoneme deletion and phoneme reversal.

Sample Activities from Read It

- **Slap It**
  - Students are given a target word or sound to find from a group on the board and slap the word with a fly swatter
- **Line of Sounds**
  - Each student represents a sound in a word such as /clap/. As each student says their sound they jump forward. In the next round, one sound is left out such as /c/. This activity allows students to practice phonemic awareness activities such as phoneme segmentation and phoneme deletion

Assessment within the Read It Program

Students were assessed both pre and post intervention each semester using the following tools:

- Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS)
- Really Great Beginning Advanced Reading Decoding Survey
- Critchlow Verbal Learning Scale
- Test of Word Reading Efficiency (TOWRE)
- Test of Silent Word Reading Fluency (TOSWRF)

References


