The Readasaurus Knows - PT Cross-Age Tutoring at Ephraim Elementary

Clarence Brenchley, Marie Beacham, Kathy Peterson, Marie Sorensen, Kay Ericksen and Brett McFarlane

Teachers in Ephraim Elementary School have used Precision Teaching schoolwide with regular students since 1982. One practice we've found particularly effective is to have older students tutor younger students and use Precision timings to monitor progress daily. Fifth graders work with first graders, fourth graders with second graders, and third graders with kindergarten children. Tutors receive training in being effective tutors and in how to monitor and chart Precision timings with their tutee. The tutoring process is completed in about 10-12 minutes. The tutors first practice with their tutees using a variety of techniques and then monitor the timing. They'll usually do a timing in math and reading each day. Teachers monitor student growth closely, based on charts, feedback from tutors, and observing tutees during the timing.

Over the years, we've developed a number of practices and ways of managing the cross-age tutoring that enable us to realize a number of very positive outcomes. Both tutors and tutees make significant academic growth, and programs can be individualized readily. As important, we feel, is the effect the experience of being a tutor has on school climate. Older students are much more considerate of younger children. All children are more able to manage and monitor their own learning plus place more value on learning in general. Learning to help others learn is a valuable life skill that our students gain from the experience also.

The presenters shared information on this cross-age tutoring process including various Precision practices and Charts. The accompanying Chart shared, reflects a fifth grade average reading rate from 1982 through 1991, showing rates on a passage in the fall and one in the spring. From 1985 on, every fifth grade has had an average reading rate of 200 words per minute or greater in the spring...true Precision Learning!

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