



The TEACHER CENTER of Broome County
Teacher Study Group Grant Award
Summer 2004

FINAL REPORT
DOCUMENT PROCESSES AND OUTCOMES

STUDY GROUP TOPIC: Systems for Change in Literacy Education

List of group members: Margaret Dein, Michelle Meleski, Elizabeth McAndrew, Mary Beth Haley, Tracey McCormick, Patty Linaberry

The final report must be word-processed and submitted both in print and on disk using this form. Include information under each of the following headings.

Describe the initial goal of the group noting any adjustments that had to be made as time passed.

Our group wanted to read the book, Systems for Change in Literacy Education (Lyons and Pinnell, 2001) and use its professional development framework as a guide for strengthening the literacy support we provide to teachers trained in Balanced Literacy and our Foundations program. We hoped to develop a more effective coaching model with the results of better instruction, leading to improved student achievement in reading and writing.

Our overall goal did not change over the course of our meetings.

Describe the ACTION PLAN that the group followed.

1. The group leader for each session read and outlined an assigned section of the text for the other group members before each study group meeting.
2. Group members then met to read and discuss the outlined section.
3. Group members set coaching/training goals for the coming year as a result of the reading and discussion.
4. Group leaders changed for each session.

Describe how the action plan was implemented.

Our group met as planned.
We are in the process of developing a survey instrument as suggested in the text.
We will use The Scales for Analysis when observing our colleagues/trainees.
We want to pare down the binder we present to our trainees and refine our demonstrations.

Evaluation of the impact of the study group effort on teacher/student performance.

- How has this study group changed you as a teacher? Do you anticipate that any of your teaching practices will have changed?

Our group met to discuss this question. The members noted the following areas:
Analysis: The Scales for Analysis will help us pinpoint weaknesses and strengths as we observe our colleagues
Demonstration: What we need to do when teaching children also needs to be applied when teaching adults – everyone benefits from good demonstrations
Reflection: Understand the importance and benefits of reflection
Teacher/Trainer Model: Understand the dual roles of teacher and collegial staff developer

- What evidence do you expect to see of student achievement is improving as a result of your participating in this study group?

An effective support model will help us establish a culture of analysis and reflection about teaching and learning. Analysis and reflection lead to shifts in teacher behavior. Shifts in teacher behavior lead to improved student performance.

- What evidence is there that the goals of the study group has/has not been met?

Our primary goal was to read and discuss the book. We were able to accomplish this goal. We were not able to discuss the last four chapters of the book but we have an outline of these chapters. A secondary goal was to develop an improved coaching model, we now have the knowledge to accomplish that.

Comment on the value of the study group process? Did it work for you?

The text states that social interaction helps the learner make sense of the new information. “Conversation is the reciprocal medium through which adults construct meaning.” A study group is the perfect format to help make sense of this information.

How can we make this study group program better?

1. We were not sure what the signature sheets were, although they sounded important. It would be helpful if they were labeled.
2. Include a tax exempt form in the packet (or at least mention that one is available) to those purchasing books using a personal credit card.
3. Make the files for the Application form and this Final Report form available to grant applicants in a format they can type into. The file format should be Word or some other word processing format, as well as a pdf, for those of us who like to type right into the form. Both forms can be offered on the website for downloads.