Using **Context** to Enhance Executive Functioning Throughout the Academic Day

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I've read some books so you don't have to…

Introductions

Why this…why now?

Sunrise in Yellowstone
Review

Identify: A “problem of practice” you’d like to solve

Survey: Let’s find out a bit about today’s guests

It is a good idea to activate prior knowledge, both in subject content and cognitive and metacognitive skills prior to engaging in a task, for example through providing specific questions on the topic to be studied (Tarchi, 2015).

The Process: Every lesson...

• Review
• Preview
• New Info
• Apply
• Review

The Process: Every lesson...

• Review
• Preview
• New Info
• Apply
• Review

Preview

• Executive Functions
• Response to Intervention
• Content area EF demands
  - Blending these
Executive Functions

Executive functioning is an umbrella term for the mental processes that serve a supervisory role in thinking and behavior. It incorporates a number of neurologically based operations that work together to direct and coordinate our efforts to achieve a goal.

Cooper-Kahn, Joyce; Foster, Margaret. Boosting Executive Skills in the Classroom . Wiley. Kindle Edition.

Executive Functions

- Planning/Organizing
- Task Monitoring
- Shifting
- Initiating

- Self-Monitoring
- Inhibition
- Emotional Control
- Working Memory
Working Memory

7 bits of information ± 2

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Questions?

Yellowstone River
New Info

- Executive Functions
- **Response to Intervention**
- Content area EF demands
- Blending them

Response to Intervention

1:1

Small Group

Whole School and Whole-Class Design

Questions?

*Big Sur*

New Info

- Executive Functions
- Response to Intervention
- **Content area EF demands**
- Blending them
Addressing Context in Reading

• Review
• Preview
• New Info
• Apply
• Forms and Methods
• Review

Forms and Methods

Text Structure: Fiction
- Main character
- Conflict
- Resolution
- Change in character

Text Structure: Non-Fiction
- Title
- Subtitles
- Diagrams
- Questions

Executive Functions
- Planning and Organizing
- Shifting
- Working memory
- Task monitoring

Recommendations

Text Structure: Fiction
- Executive Functions
- Recommendations
- Explicit model
- High interest, positive atmosphere
- Explicit modelling and repetition
- Proximity and check-ins

Text Structure: Non-Fiction
- Initiating (especially novice and discouraged readers)
- Read the first chapter together

Addressing Context in Science

• Review
• Preview
• New Info
• Apply
• Forms and Methods
• Review
Forms and Methods

The Scientific Method
- Task Monitoring
- Planning and Organizing
- Working Memory
- Shifting

Executive Functions
- Self-monitoring (group work)
- Inhibition
- Emotional Control (especially with frustration during initial attempts)

Forms and Methods

The Lab Report
- Title
- Abstract
- Introduction
- Methods and Materials
- Results
- Discussion
- Conclusion
- References

Executive Functions
- Planning and Organizing
- Shifting
- Working memory
- Task monitoring

Interventions
- Proximity and check-ins
- Explicit modeling
- High interest, positive atmosphere
- Explicit modeling and repetition
- Proximity and checklists
- Proximity and checklists

Music: Identify your process...
- Listen
- Identify signs
- Identify phrases
- Identify contour
- Clap and say
- Name notes
- Practice
- Put phrases together
- Perform
Embed in meaning-filled protocol...

- Review
- Preview
- New Info
- Apply
- Revise

Assess and plan for challenge areas for each class’ abilities...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Executive Functions</th>
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Questions?

Yellowstone River

New Info

- Executive Functions
- Response to Intervention
- Content area EF demands
  - Blending them with RtI
Response to Intervention

- 1:1
- Small Group
- Whole-School and Whole-Class Design

Review: New Information

- Executive Functions
- Response to Intervention
- Content area EF demands
- Blending them: RtI

Review: The Process

- Review
- Preview
- New info
- Apply
- Review

Application

Consider: The problem you’d like to solve..

Have you discovered a solution?

Have you discovered a new more generative question?

Is there a resource or a process you could tap to help?
Defining a Dream

…from Dream to Action Plan

Questions

Using **Context** to Enhance Executive Functioning Throughout the Academic Day

- Content areas
- Time management in context
- Social skills in context
- Navigating apps and platforms
- Sensory challenges in context
- Transitions in context

Great Fountain Geyser
Review

First I thought…

Now I think…

There is evidence that teachers own metacognitive knowledge is related to that of their pupils (e.g. Soodla et al., 2017)

References