Data Use in the Classroom: Sherry's Perspective

Rhode Island Family Literacy Initiative (RIFLI)
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NRS
National Reporting System
for Adult Education

Background

- Have always used data: personal information and test scores.
  - Used BEST plus before CASAS.
  - Received training along the way and adopted the new test.

Why I Use Data

▸ Data lets me know where to start with students and guides my lesson planning.

▸ Data gives me insight to students' needs and backgrounds and helps refine my expectations.

How I Use Data

- **TEST SCORES**: CASAS and reading diagnostics to determine where they are for fluency, comprehension, vocabulary, and alphabetics.
  - Do e-testing so get results pretty quickly
- **Demographic info** informs their pace and aptitude.
  - Level of education
  - Native language
- **Goal conferencing and individual interviews**
  - Helps us identify the barriers or challenges to getting high school credential or just being able to attend regularly and helps to build a rapport so learners will stay in contact and let me know what's going on if they need to stop out or drop out. Then, we can work together on finding other learning options ie 1:1 tutoring, distance learning, etc.
- **What's going on in their life**
  - Specific things students need for their jobs, their families ie help with kids' homework, communicate with boss, talk to doctors, write letters, memos, etc.

The Support I Receive

- **Opportunities to participate in almost any professional development opportunity** ie: release time, expenses, etc.
- Participated in the Leadership Excellence Academy.
  - 2 year program improvement process
  - We chose something from our practice that we wanted to improve, looked at what the data says, what the research says, etc., and thought about what to improve and process for how to get there.
- Other trainings:
  - STAR – diagnose what component of reading is most difficult for a learner
  - CASAS – informs reading levels and competencies understood or needed
  - Motivational Interviewing (MI) – how to develop change talk to movitate learners to persevere and reach their goals
  - LEA – above

The Impact of Using Data

➢ Individualizing instruction
  ◦ Rather than teach to the middle of the road, data allows me to have detailed information and differentiate instruction
  ◦ EX: Now I have them broken into groups by reading level and need ie fluency, vocabulary, etc. and have graded reading passages.

  ➢**Establish a rapport with learners**

  ➢**Improved outcomes – the result of more effective instruction and perseverance of learners.**

My Greatest Challenges

▸ Meeting the needs of all learners

▸ Time: never enough class time

▸ Making the best use of face-to-face time in the classroom. I think of what they can do at home and how should we spend our time together.

My Best Tips

- Think about how to best group students so that you're not trying to do a one-size fits all lesson.
- Interview your students.
  - ◦ Find out what's going on in their lives, what are they interested in, what their goals are, what's held them back in the past.
- Each class, focus on certain students.
  - ◦ Get a feel for where everyone is during part of a class or a whole class.
  - ◦ Figure out who do I need to move forward next lesson and who needs more practice.
- Take little notes as you catch things that happen.

Contact Information

[Sherry Lehane](#)

Rhode Island Family Literacy Initiative (RIFLI)

401-455-8016

sherryfiaux@yahoo.com