

Successful Skills Iowa Practices

Differentiated Instruction

Using Reading Tests to Provide Students Individual Instructional Feedback

When I was first introduced to Skills Iowa I thought, how am I going to have time to incorporate this into my curriculum? Now, not having Skills Iowa to use in my classroom is unimaginable. Skills Iowa is a major component driving my instruction. The feedback Skills Iowa provides allows me to identify exactly what skills or strategies students need further assistances with.

I utilize Skills Iowa daily in my third grade classroom. Most days consist of students receiving a reading assessment. On other days students are given both a reading assessment and either a language arts or math assessment. When students receive a reading assessment they are given a hard copy of the passage. This allows students to highlight in the passage where they found the answers to the questions. After students have completed answering the questions for the passage, they enter their answers into the computer. After each assessment is completed, students who scored lower than 80% meet with me. When we meet, reviewing of the assessment takes place, pinpointing exactly where mistakes were made and how we can correct them.

Skills Iowa has become a favorite staple in my students' day. Weekly, students set goals for themselves and are rewarded for meeting their goals. Each student has their own graph showcased in the classroom. On the graph students chart their assessment scores for the week.

I cannot speak highly enough of Skills Iowa. This program has allowed me to transform my teaching. There are no areas of gray for what my students do not understand. Skills Iowa allows me to differentiate my teaching, resulting in overall student success.

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