Effectiveness of Co-Teaching

Shelby T. Grubesky

Gettysburg College

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Effectiveness of Co-Teaching

Abstract
Co-Teaching is a model of teaching that was implemented to respond to the evolving policy that requires students to be instructed by highly qualified teachers in the least restrictive environment. Often this means providing special education support in the general education classroom. This poster examines the effectiveness of Co-Teaching by focusing on academic achievement, student reported benefits and parent perspectives. It also provides models and tips for educators to make their Co-Teaching more effective.

Keywords
Education, Co-Teaching, IDEA

Disciplines
Curriculum and Instruction | Education | Educational Methods | Teacher Education and Professional Development

Comments
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Effectiveness of Co-Teaching

Shelby Grubesky

Department of Education, Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, PA

Achievement

- Between 2003 to 2009 there was a 10% increase in placement of students with disabilities in co-taught, less restrictive environments.
- The increase in scores was more significant when the professional development was in place.

Definition

- Co-teaching is defined as the partnering of a general education teacher and a special education teacher or another specialist for the purpose of jointly delivering instruction to a diverse group of students, including those with disabilities or other special needs, in a general education setting (Cook, Hurley-Chamberlain, & Shamberger, 2010).

Background

- Co-teaching as a service delivery model has responded to evolving educational policy requiring increased access to general education curriculum and research based instruction by highly qualified, content certified teachers.
- No Child Left Behind Act, 2001
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 2004

Student Perceptions

- Students reported that they favored co-teaching, received better grades in those classes, more help was available, multiple instructional approaches were used, standards were higher and they could not get away with anything.
- Students with disabilities reported that co-taught classes provided higher levels of abstraction, concept development, literacy skills and greater levels of social acceptance.

Parent Perceptions

- Parents of students with and without disabilities expressed overall satisfaction with the co-teaching model.
- In general, parents were satisfied with the student to staff ratio, which they believed would lead to more individualized attention.
- Parents of students with IEPs expressed gratitude for the opportunities which they perceived came from this model: more individual attention for child, better behavioral control in the classroom and better access to peers without disabilities.
- Parents expressed concern that one general education teacher was not enough to manage and teach students with disabilities.
- Parents of students with and without disabilities expressed overall satisfaction with the co-teaching model.

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Perceptions

- Administrators discussed goodness of fit, whether the general classroom is the least restrictive environment.
- More positive teacher perceptions were associated with administrative support, additional planning time, similar beliefs about teaching and mutual respect for one another.

What are the students saying?

“...it’s confusing because they cut each other off all the time and I don’t always know what they’re talking about.”

“This is usually a good thing because if one teacher is confusing there is a second teacher there to help you to understand.”

“One good thing is there is double the help. One bad thing is you can never slack off without being seen.”

“I personally feel like it is very important to have a second teacher in the room. While one teacher is teaching the class, the other teacher can make the rounds and help single students at a time if they don’t get the subject.”

Co-Teaching Teams

- More positive teacher perceptions were associated with administrative support, additional planning time, similar beliefs about teaching and mutual respect for one another.
- Successful co-teaching team qualities:
  - Collaboration
  - OutStanding working relationships
  - Time spent co-planning
  - Effective instructional skills
  - Exceptional disability-specific teaching adaptations
  - Expertise in content area
  - Mutual trust and respect for one another

Tips

- Make time for co-planning
- Be on the same page
- Develop a productive flow
- Divide up to do’s
- Do check ins

Acknowledgments


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