Overview

- Whole-class instruction using research-based core instruction
- Tri-annual screenings to monitor student progress 3 times per year
- Identification of students at risk of problems
- Interventions
- Progress monitoring

Breaking RTI into Steps

- In order to make RTI happen, it needs to be organized into manageable steps
- Brown-Chidsey and Steege (2005; 2010) have suggested a 10-step method for implementing RTI
- Forms and worksheets for each step are available and can be copied for use in schools
Tier 1 Core Instruction

- Implement scientifically-based general education instructional methods
- Review of evidence to support specific curricula needs to be conducted before selecting instructional materials and methods
- Tier 1 core instruction plays a huge role in RTI success
- 80% of students can success with Tier 1 alone

Scientifically-Based Instruction

- In order to document that an instructional program or curriculum is scientifically based there needs to be at least one research study that provides data to show that the use of the program yielded results not seen when the program was not used
- Tier 1 instruction affects all students so effective methods are a must

Locating Materials & Methods

- Information about the efficacy of curricula can be found in research publications and specific internet resources
  - What Works Clearinghouse is a new initiative of the Institute of Education Sciences developed to share information about effective programs
  - Doing What works is a newer website sponsored by U.S. DOE which focuses on instructional methods
  - Johns Hopkins Best Evidence Encyclopedia is a university-based resource with information on effective materials
  - http://www.bestevidence.org/
Checking Treatment Integrity

- Once a curriculum has been chosen, it needs to be implemented correctly in order to yield the desired results
- Treatment integrity is a measure of how closely what is done matches what was supposed to be done
- No one is perfect so no treatment will be implemented 100% correctly

Measuring Treatment Integrity

- A first step to verifying treatment integrity is to use self-report measures
- With these, teachers rate the accuracy and completeness of their use of a specific method or program
- In time, observations of the method by another person provide additional feedback
- If an instructional program is not being implemented correctly, it’s hard to make conclusions about student learning outcomes

Steps are written in to reflect the specific curriculum being used
Eventually the form can be used by a peer observer
Checklists Really Help

- Checking on treatment accuracy takes time
- Research in medicine showed that using treatment checklists improved treatment accuracy and saved lives
- Using treatment fidelity checklists ensures that students get the most effective instruction

Why is Core Instruction so Important?

- All students participate in Tier 1
- Tier 1 happens every day
- Tier 1 is the least restrictive environment
- Tier 1 is the first and best opportunity to ensure that all students have access to an effective education

Universal Screening

- Universal screening is a system of standardized brief assessments in which EVERY student participates
- Gathering brief data on every student allows teachers to know which students are doing okay and which ones need help
- Examples: AIMSweb, DIBELS, EasyCBM, SWIS
- Universal screenings are important because kids grow and change during the year and only universal data can provide updates on every student
Why is Universal Screening Important for RTI?

- Universal screenings are dynamic assessments of students which take into account that learning goals change during the course of a school year.
- These data are used to identify which students need more help and which ones are well ahead.
- Standardized screening allows data to be compared between classrooms and according to school goals.

When Does Screening Happen?

- Screenings are usually done 3 times a year:
  - Fall = August/September
  - Winter = December/January
  - Spring = April/May
- This frequency allows teachers to learn how ALL students are doing at regular intervals during the school year.
- Sometimes a student will start the year okay, but have trouble later on; the additional screenings ensure that all students are reviewed again.

Who Conducts Screenings?

- There is no rule about exactly which teachers conduct screenings.
- The only rule is that whoever does the screenings needs to have been trained to use them correctly.
- Considerations:
  - The more people who conduct screenings, the faster it will go, but the data may be less reliable.
  - The fewer people who conduct screenings, the longer it will take, but the data will be more reliable.
How Do We Set up Screenings

- This requires being organized and thinking of all the materials and steps needed
- Things to plan for:
  - Selection and printing of materials
  - Additional supplies (stopwatches, pens, clipboards)
  - People to use
  - Training!
  - Daily schedules for data collection
  - Locations for data collection

Materials

- A school or district team needs to decide which screening materials to use
- Screening measures should be general outcome measures (GOM) which can work with any curriculum
- Some materials can be downloaded for free, some for purchase and some can be completed online
- Review of academic measures available at:

K-8 Screening Measures

- AIMSweb
- DIBELS
- Easy CBM
- GRADE
- GMADE
- STEEP
- Others…
Behavior Screening

- Screening student behaviors can happen a couple different ways
- Screen every student with measure like the Systematic Screening for Behavior Disorders (SSBD)
  - This is time-consuming
- Enter and review school discipline data using office referrals using a program like School Wide Information System (SWIS)
  - This takes less time and can show which students may benefit from SSBD or other screening measure
- Goal is to learn which students need help in learning and using pro-social behaviors

People

- Deciding who should collect data should be a school or district decision
- It's important that the examiners know what's expected, get trained, and understand the purpose and role of universal screening in RTI
- Training should happen near the time when the data are collected, but also include “booster” sessions just before each additional screening window

Schedules

- Having clear and defined screening schedules is a big help
- It's best to pick the dates for the whole year all at once and stick with them
- An entire school can be done in 1 week
- Be sure to plan for make-up testing the following week
- Have back-up examiners planned in case of absences
Locations
- The more examiners used, the more testing locations are needed
- Ideal if students don’t have to walk very far to be screened
- Classrooms might work, but other spaces can work too
  - Library
  - Gym
  - Principal’s office (especially if s/he is an examiner)
  - Quiet hallways
  - Specialists’ offices

Absences
- Some kids will be absent on screening days
- Be sure to have make-up days scheduled
- It’s very important to assess every student in universal screening because it’s the only way to know if all students are making progress
- Students who move into the district after a screening can be can be screened to help with instructional decisions; be sure to note the date of their screening in the record

Summary
- RTI requires teamwork and building readiness
- Core instruction at Tier 1 is the most important part of RTI
- Universal screening data provides a way to know which students are at risk for school difficulties
- If less than 80% of students are not successful at Tier 1, it’s crucial to strengthen core instruction
- Tier 2 interventions support 15% of students
- Tier 3 is a time for additional decision making
Resources


Intervention Central: www.interventioncentral.org
National Center on Response to Intervention: www.rti4success.org
RTI Action Network: www.rtinetwork.org