

Contents

Prefacevi

Acknowledgmentsviii

About This Nutshell Bookix

Family of Strategies: Finding Similarities and Differences (1SD)

 Comparing and Contrasting1

 Classifying4

 Metaphors8

 Analogies14

Family of Strategies: Summarizing and Note-taking (2SN)

 Summarizing19

 Note-taking22

Family of Strategies: Reinforcing Effort and Providing Recognition (3RR)

 Reinforcing Effort27

 Providing Recognition31

Family of Strategies: Homework and Practice (4HP)

 Homework37

 Practice42



Family of Strategies: Nonlinguistic Representations (5NR)

Multiple Intelligences49
Drawings53
Graphic Organizers56
Physical Models/Mental Models62

Family of Strategies: Cooperative Learning (6CL)

Cooperative Learning67

Family of Strategies: Setting Objectives and Providing Feedback (7OF)

Setting Objectives73
Providing Feedback79

Family of Strategies: Generating and Testing Hypotheses (8GH)

Generating and Testing Hypotheses85

Family of Strategies: Questions and Cues and Advanced Organizers (9QCA)

Questions and Cues91
Advance Organizers97

Appendix A: People Search: “Best Practices” That Make the Difference . .103

Bibliography105



Preface

We educators know that what makes the difference in the learning journey of the children in our classrooms is quality teaching. We also know from the research what quality teaching looks and sounds like. Quality educators go where the research on the pedagogy of “best practices” leads them.

Through a meta-analysis of studies on instructional strategies, Marzano, Pickering, and Pollock (2001) have identified nine families of strategies that significantly increase student achievement. The results of this meta-analysis point educators to a proven pedagogy with teacher-tested, tried-and-true techniques that work to increase student achievement through cognitive and cooperative efforts.

Framework for Quality

Nine “Best Practices” That Make the Difference presents research-based instructional ideas that encompass an essential repertoire for beginning and developing teachers as they become skilled professionals. The skills are organized in a “framework for quality” that includes observable skills in four instructional areas: Creating an Environment for Learning, Teaching the Standards of Learning, Structuring Interactions with Learning, and Reflecting about the Learning.



If caring professionals know what works and what makes the difference in the learning journey of every child, they must not only examine but also embrace these ideas in their k-12 classrooms. If, in fact, these best practices are the *proven practice* of effective instruction, they do, indeed, provide a rich yet manageable mandate for the teaching and learning processes.

“Best Practices” That Make the Difference

The strategies in the nine families are not unknowns to most teachers. Readers might want to check off in Figure Preface.1 those they have used in the past. The rest of the book examines each family in more detail.

- | | |
|------|--|
| 1SD | Finding Similarities and Differences |
| 2SN | Summarizing and Note-taking |
| 3RR | Reinforcing Effort and Providing Recognition |
| 4HP | Homework and Practice |
| 5NR | Nonlinguistic Representations |
| 6CL | Cooperative Learning |
| 7OF | Setting Objectives and Providing Feedback |
| 8GH | Generating and Testing Hypotheses |
| 9QCA | Questions and Cues and Advance Organizers |

Figure Preface. 1.

Family of Strategies: Finding Similarities and Differences (1SD)

Strategies

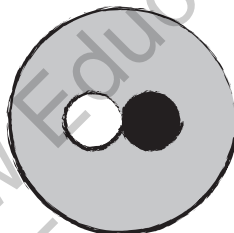
Comparing and Contrasting

Classifying

Metaphors

Analogies

1SD



Comparing and Contrasting

A Story to Tell

"The Mustang has the 'five on the floor' gear box that I want. It's in my price range, and they have it on the lot. On the other hand, the Firebird has the leather interior, the larger trunk space, and I love the color."

"Do I tell the truth, which is gonna get me in big trouble, or do I avoid the conversation and delay the inevitable?"

Synonyms—Comparing and Contrasting

similar and different

alike and different

ying and yang

matching and not matching

same and different

aligned and not aligned



Life is full of decisions—big and little ones. These decisions require careful consideration that often involves comparing and contrasting various elements. Finding similarities and differences is a skill that can be practiced and learned.

Things You Need to Know

What’s It All About?

Comparing and contrasting is like shopping

Comparing and contrasting is an analysis skill of finding similarities and differences. You *compare* the attributes that are alike, but *contrast* the ones that are different. Comparing and contrasting is like shopping: both require careful consideration, both involve looking at similarities and differences, and both often result in a final judgment.

To analyze by comparing and contrasting is to find how things are the same or different. When comparing and contrasting, two patterns often emerge: the ab-ab pattern and the aaa-bbb pattern.

In comparing and contrasting the two characters of the boy and the man in the novel *The Old Man and the Sea*, the ab-ab pattern calls for comments about one character, followed immediately by parallel comments about the other character. For example, “The boy cared deeply about his old friend. The old man cared as deeply about his young friend.” Using the aaa-bbb pattern, there might be a full paragraph about the characteristics of the boy, followed by another paragraph about the various attributes of the old man. For example,

