**Best Practices of Effective Instructional Programs**

An instructional program is a replicable instructional activity that is designed and implemented to achieve an instructional goal, namely, some clearly defined change or changes in a selected group of learners. The primary criteria for determining the success or effectiveness of an instructional program are these measures of changes in the selected group of learners. Changes can be academic, affective, physical, or social.

Despite the size, an instructional program will have a curriculum component that defines the goal or goals we have for the learner and a set of teaching procedures in which we plan to use to achieve the curriculum goal. Program effectiveness resides in the relationship between the curriculum component and the teaching component.

Slavin (1999) noted the tendency for education practices to go from one fad to another. He stated: “If education is ever to make serious generational, progress, educators must somehow stop the pendulum by focusing their efforts to improve education on programs that are effective, rather than on those merely new or sound good “(p .758).

Best practices to consider are as follows:

1. Examine test data from year to year, then use the information to make adjustments that ensure that the most effective practices are retained and that the less effective practices are replaced with the more effective ones.
2. Be clear about the instructionally relevant characteristics of our learners, particularly those prerequisites needed for success in each instructional program.
3. Know how and why one generation of instructional effort differs from the previous generation of instruction.
4. Make sure that reference points are learner-centered. The most important information that one has for making generational adjustments is the data on learner changes.
5. Monitor the implementation of the program to verify the programs goals and to see if its impact on all learners is being achieved.

References

Slavin, R.E (1989). PET and the pendulum: Faddism in education and how to stop it. Phi Delta Kappan, 70(10), 752-758.

<http://spedfoundations.pbworks.com/w/file/fetch/97596248/slavin.pdf>