

A Tale of Two Classrooms: A Core Vocabulary Journey

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Learner Outcomes:

1. Describe three values of using core vocabulary.
2. Participants will be able to name three different strategies that can be used to implement core vocabulary across the day.
3. Attendees will understand the application of core vocabulary for students with diverse needs.

Outline:

- Introduction:
 - Core Vocabulary defined
 - Research supporting the use of core vocabulary in teaching language and communication development
 - A brief history of the collaboration between Monroe County Community Schools and Indiana University
 - Timeline of implementation in classrooms
- Evolution of implementation of Core Vocabulary into a traditional classroom that educationally services students with moderate to severe disabilities:
 - Initial steps of classroom implementation
 - Classroom selection, vocabulary selection, materials/classroom environment set-up, staff training, student selection
 - Expansion across the academic day
 - Examples of core vocabulary in a variety of activities
- Implementation of Core Vocabulary into a classroom that educationally services students with moderate to severe disabilities who use intensive behaviors to communicate:
 - A marriage of two differing philosophies
 - Example of core vocabulary in a variety of activities
- How to start implementing core vocabulary in your environment:
 - Priorities:
 - Create a physical environment for learning
 - Select vocabulary and create materials
 - Establish "learner behaviors"
 - Build a team (find a teacher who is open)
 - Establish a daily Core Vocabulary language activity time
 - Group will give you the biggest bang for your buck
 - Train your staff/colleagues
 - Start and revise! (Don't worry! It is a journey!)

- Consider how you can expand beyond group into other activities and ultimately the daily routine
 - Revise IEP goals to incorporate learning and use of Core Vocabulary
 - Educate and include parents
 - Spread the word in your school setting and district
- What if you run into a roadblock?
- Questions: