

Best Practice Site
Teaching Students with Disabilities to Read and Write

Region	Region 8
Schools	Swain County
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Instructional Location(s)	Swain Middle School Joann Whiteside Janet Shuler 135 Arlington Ave. Email: JShuler@SwainMail.org Bryson City, NC 28713 East Elementary School Teresa Jacobs Brandon Sutton Email: TJacobs@swainmail.org PO Box 146 Whittier, NC 28789 West Elementary School Jackie W. McLeod 4142 Hwy. 19 W JWMcLeod@Swainmail.org Bryson City, NC 28713
Purpose and Goals	Swain County's project is designed to provide exceptional

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children the basic skills that they need to become successful readers. Many of these students did not acquire the necessary skills in their early elementary learning experiences. Our goal is to back up these skills and help these students move forward.

Description Of Students

Students in grades k – 8 with a persistent reading disability in word attack and decoding skills are targeted in this project.

Description of Instructional Model

Swain County selected SRA Corrective Reading as its original model. This program was selected because the system found that many students who struggled in reading lacked the basic decoding skills to become successful readers. The systems recently added Language! as a second instructional program. This program covers a broader area of instructional goals as well as providing support for the writing process.

Instructional Methods

Swain County Schools has adopted “Letterland” as its base phonics program. The program is implemented in all Pre-K – Grade 2 classrooms. Materials were purchased at the system level and trained provided. This training is updated annually as the staff needs are identified. Exceptional children’s teachers use “Letterland” to support regular education. The system is also involved with DIBELS as a diagnostic tool for grades K-2. All K-2 students are assessed three times each year. Students requiring additional interventions are identified and staff members to provide them assigned. Students are tracked throughout the year and across grade levels. The system utilizes this data to provide guidance for professional development needs, as well as, student support services.

Both Language! and SRA Corrective Reading programs are implemented at East and West Elementary and Swain Middle Schools. Selected students in grades 3 – 8 receive instruction in groups of 5 or less. These groups meet for 45 minutes per day, 5 days per week.

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**Instructional
Materials**

DIBELS
Letterland
Corrective Reading
Language!

Designated Teachers
Janet Shuler - Middle School
Teresa Jacobs – East Elementary
Jackie W. McLeod – West Elementary