Module Home



**Outline­**

**Executive Functions (Part 1)**:

Understanding Why Some Students Struggle

* Module Description: This module explores *executive functions* and explains why many students struggle with cognitive processes related to learning. It then examines why it's critical for teachers to explicitly teach these students when, where, and how to use effective study strategies to help them succeed academically (est. completion time: 1 hour).
* Link: Executive Functions (Part 2): Strategies to Improve Students’ Academic Performance [IRIS Module]

Challenge

* Video: Hi, I’m Gina. I’m a student at Morrison High School, and this is my class project...

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Initial Thoughts

* Why do some students struggle with learning and completing tasks?
* How can teachers effectively teach study skills strategies?

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Perspectives & Resources

* Module Objectives
* Understand why some students struggle with academic tasks
* Understand the differences in how successful and struggling students learn information
* Know that students with learning difficulties often need to be explicitly taught study skills strategies

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* Page 1: Characteristics of Successful and Struggling Learners
* An increasing number of students with disabilities today receive instruction in…
* Did You Know?
* Audio: Danette Waites, who portrays Ms. Flemming in the Challenge…
* Audio: Erin, who has struggled academically, discusses how…
* Audio: Kyra, who has struggled academically, discusses how…
* Even students who are quite intelligent might experience… [bullet points]
* Student Profiles
  + Hannah
  + Erin
  + Kyra
* Executive Function Process/Successful Learners/Struggling Learners [table]
* Audio: Listen as Hannah, a successful learner, describes how she is very strategic…
* Link: Executive Skills Questionnaire (teen version) [PDF]
* Working Memory
  + Audio: Robert Reid, an expert in the education and treatment of…

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* Page 2: Importance of Teaching Study Skills Strategies
* Because students with learning difficulties, particularly those with LD and ADHD…
* Processing Information/Retaining and Recalling Information/Organizing Materials… [table]
* Audio: Mary Anne Prater-Doty, whose research interests include instructional…
* Audio: Don Deshler, an expert in the field of instructional interventions in content-area…
* Audio: Erin shares her experiences before and after she applied effective study skills…
* Research Shows

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* Page 3: Models for Teaching Strategies
* If students are to succeed academically, they must be able to use different types of…
* Students who have learning disabilities need high structure, explicit… [bullet points]
* The Importance of Practice Opportunities, Maintenance, and Generalization
  + Audio: Don Deshler discusses the importance of providing ample practice…
* Link: Self-Regulated Strategy Development (SRSD) [PDF]
* Link: Strategic Intervention Model (SIM) [PDF]
* Audio: Karen Harris, a co-developer of SRSD, discusses these strategies.
* Audio: Don Deshler, a co-developer of SIM, discusses these strategies.
* Link: SRSD: Using Learning Strategies to Enhance Student Learning [IRIS Module]
* Link: SRSD: A Framework for Teaching Instructional Strategies [IRIS Interview]
* Research Shows
* Tip

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* Page 4: Considerations When Teaching Strategies
* Successful students typically approach an academic task with confidence.
* Audio: Hannah discusses how she views and responds to challenging academic…
* Audio: Erin discusses how she views and responds to challenging academic...
* Research Shows
* Audio: Don Deshler discusses the importance of acknowledging students’ struggles…
* Audio: Don Deshler discusses ways to engage and motivate students to learn a new…

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* Page 5: References & Additional Resources
* Suggested module citation
* References
* Additional Resources
* Page 6: Credits
* Content Expert
* Module Developers
* Module Production Team
* Media
* Expert Interviews

Wrap Up

* Summary of the module
* Critical Components of Effective Strategy Instruction [table]
* Revisit your Initial Thoughts responses

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Assessment

* Take some time now to answer the following questions.

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You Have Completed This Module

* We Value Your Feedback
  + Link: Module Feedback Form
* Professional Development Hours
  + Link: IRIS PD Options
* Related Resources [links]