

Strategic Instruction Model (SIM)

Overview

SIM is based on a set of instructional guidelines that can be used to effectively teach students a variety of learning strategies. Though each stage of the model focuses on different instructional practices (noted below), each also involves the use of advance organizers, post organizers, and goal-setting.

Procedures

- ★ **Pretest and Make Commitments**
 - Motivate students to learn the strategy
 - Assess the current performance level of the students in regard to the skill
- ★ **Describe**
 - Provide an overview of the strategy
 - Discuss how this strategy will benefit students
 - Describe how the students will use self-instruction to regulate their use of the strategy
- ★ **Model**
 - Provide instruction on how to use the strategy
 - Use “think alouds” to demonstrate how to use the strategy
 - Demonstrate self-instruction
- ★ **Verbal Practice**
 - Make sure students can describe in their own words the strategy and the steps involved
 - Ensure that students can describe how to use self-instruction when applying the strategy
 - Make sure that students are fluent in naming the steps
- ★ **Controlled Practice and Feedback**
 - Provide ample opportunity for the students to practice using the strategy with easy materials until they can apply the strategy with fluency and confidence
 - Increase the level of difficulty until the students can effectively use the strategy with grade-level tasks
 - Decrease the level of teacher support across time
 - Provide corrective feedback
- ★ **Advanced Practice and Feedback**
 - Assign grade-level tasks in which the students independently apply the strategy
 - Provide assignments that require the student to adapt the strategy
 - Decrease the use of prompts
 - Monitor student performance and provide corrective feedback
- ★ **Posttest and Make Commitments**
 - Determine whether the students have mastered the strategy
 - Provide additional practice opportunities for students who have not mastered the strategy

- Encourage the students to review their goals and provide self-reinforcement for achieving them
 - Explain the importance of using the strategy in other settings (i.e., generalization)
- ★ **Generalization**
- Discuss the benefits of using the strategy in other settings
 - Encourage students to use the strategy outside of class (e.g., for assignments in other classes, at home)
 - Encourage students to set goals to increase their use of the strategy
 - Discuss the cognitive processes taking place when using a strategy and practice adapting the strategy for novel tasks
 - Promote maintenance of the strategy across time

Source:

Ellis, E., Deshler, D., & Lenz, K. (1991). An instructional model for teaching learning strategies. *Focus on Exceptional Children*, 23(6), 1-24.

For more information about SIM®, please visit kucri.org/sim. Most SIM instructional materials are available only in conjunction with professional development provided by certified SIM Professional Developers.