



# DIRECT INSTRUCTION

## WHY ARE DI PROGRAMS EFFECTIVE?

Direct Instruction (DI) programs can improve student learning faster and more efficiently than any other program or technique available. These programs are based on over 40 years of research that show they can be used successfully to increase student learning with students of all backgrounds.

### Why do these programs work?

#### **Students are placed in instruction at their skill level.**

Before students begin the program, each student is placement tested to find out which skills they have already mastered and which ones they need to work on. Based on this skill assessment, students are grouped with other students who have similar skills. These instructional groups are organized by program levels rather than by grade levels.

#### **The program's structure is designed to ensure mastery of the content.**

Skills are introduced gradually and systematically, giving children a chance to learn new skills thoroughly. Only 10% of each lesson contains new material. The remaining 90% of each lesson's content is review and application of skills and concepts introduced in earlier lessons. This structure provides a solid foundation for students to learn more advanced skills and concepts over time.

#### **Instruction is modified to accommodate each student's rate of learning.**

Students master the material covered in the DI programs at different rates. Some students require additional practice; others don't require as much practice and can advance more quickly. The DI programs are designed to accommodate these different rates of learning. If students need more practice with a specific skill, teachers can provide the additional instruction within the program. If students demonstrate that they already possess the skills covered in a lesson, students can be moved to a more advanced placement. Some programs include a "fast cycle" skip schedule to accommodate faster rates of learning.

#### **Programs are field tested and revised before publication.**

DI programs are unique in the way they are tested and revised before publication. All DI programs are field tested with a wide range of students and revised based on feedback from the field before they are ever published. This means that the DI program used with your students has already been proven to work with students similar to yours.