

TEN PRINCIPLES OF EFFECTIVE INSTRUCTION

These ten principles of classroom instruction are based on research in cognitive science, research on the classroom practices of highly effective teachers and research on cognitive supports to help students learn complex tasks.

1 BEGIN A LESSON WITH A SHORT REVIEW OF PREVIOUS LEARNING. Daily review strengthens previous learning and can lead to fluent recall.

2 PRESENT NEW MATERIAL IN SMALL STEPS WITH STUDENT PRACTICE AFTER EACH STEP. Teach only small amounts of new material at any time, and then help students as they work with this material.

3 ASK A LARGE NUMBER OF QUESTIONS AND CHECK THE RESPONSES OF ALL STUDENTS. Questions help students practice new information and connect new material to their prior learning.

4 PROVIDE MODELS. Providing students with models and ‘worked examples’ can help them learn to solve problems faster.

5 GUIDE STUDENT PRACTICE. Successful teachers spend more time guiding students’ practice of new material.

6 CHECK FOR STUDENT UNDERSTANDING. Monitoring student learning at each point can help them grasp the material with fewer errors.

7 GET A HIGH SUCCESS RATE. It is important for students to be operating at a level of proficiency before the teacher moves on.

8 PROVIDE SCAFFOLDS FOR DIFFICULT TASKS. The teacher gives students temporary supports to help them when they learn difficult tasks.

9 REQUIRE AND MONITOR INDEPENDENT PRACTICE. Students need extensive, successful, independent practice in order for skills and knowledge to become automatic.

10 ENGAGE STUDENTS IN WEEKLY AND MONTHLY REVIEW. Students need to come back to learned material to develop well-connected and automatic knowledge.

Acknowledgement: “Principles of Instruction: Research-Based Strategies That All Teachers Should Know” by Barak Rosenshine in *American Educator*, Spring 2012