

Research: The Following Instructions Together PD CD Program

Overview

The Following Instructions Together program is used to teach students how to follow simple and complex instructions. To test the effects of a CD program for instructing teachers in how to teach the Following Instructions Together Program, a study was conducted with 18 general education teachers who taught 330 students in grades 4 and 5, 40% of whom represented minority populations and 33% of whom were students with exceptionalities. The teachers and their students were randomly selected into one of two groups. Nine teachers worked through this CD program and the instructor's manual (hereafter referred to as the "CD group") to learn how to use the Following Instructions Together Program. Nine teachers (hereafter referred to as the "manual group") read the instructor's manual. The purpose of the study was to determine the comparative effects of the CD/manual combination and the manual alone in terms of teacher and student outcomes.

A multiple-baseline across-teachers design was used to determine the effects of instructing the teachers on the teachers' implementation of the program. A posttest-only control-group design was used to determine the effects of the two methods of teacher instruction on teacher knowledge. A pretest-posttest control-group design was used to determine the effects of the teacher instruction on student knowledge of instruction following and student response to instructions. Three types of analysis were used: analysis of variance (ANOVA), analysis of covariance (ANCOVA), and the general linear mixed model (GLMM). All outcome (dependent) variables used in these analyses were treated as continuous variables. All analyses were conducted using a level of significance (alpha) of .05.

Research: The Following Instructions Together PD CD Program

Results

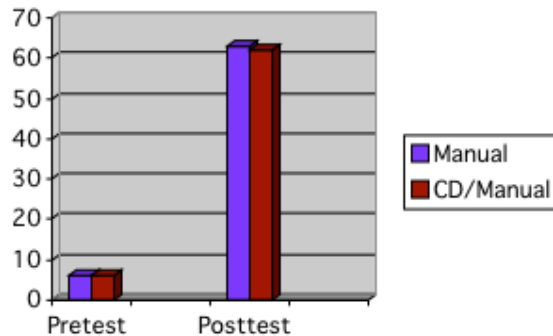
The teachers' implementation of the Following Instructions Together Program was measured in the classroom after they had read the manual or worked through the CD and the manual. The mean percentage of instructional steps implemented by the CD group was 94%; the mean percentage of steps implemented by the manual group was 85%. The after-training implementation scores of the two groups were compared using the general linear mixed model. A significant difference was revealed, $F(1, 16.1) = 3.23, p = .005$, indicating that the CD/manual combination was more effective than the manual alone.

The two groups of teachers also took a written test of their knowledge of the Following Instructions Together Program. An Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) revealed no significant difference between the posttest scores of the groups, $F(1, 16) = 3.14, p = 0.095$, probably because of the relatively small number of teachers. However, the effect size was large (.64). The CD group earned a mean score of 75% on the posttest, and the manual group earned a mean score of 54% on the posttest.

The CD group teachers completed a satisfaction questionnaire about the CD program. Their mean ratings on items on a 7-point Likert-type scale (with "7" indicating "completely satisfied" to "1" indicating "completely dissatisfied") ranged from 6.1 to 6.8, with an overall mean rating of 6.3. Teachers in both groups completed a satisfaction questionnaire about the Following Instructions Together Program. The manual group had an overall mean rating of 6.1, and the CD group had an overall mean rating of 6.4.

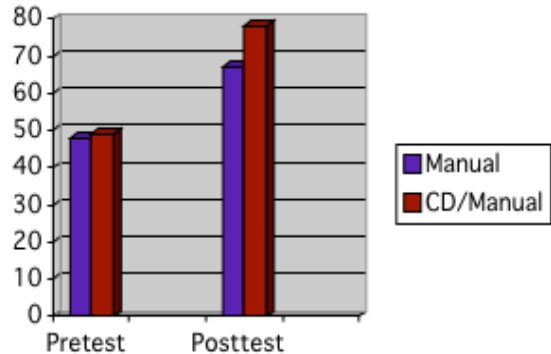
The students in the two groups of classes took a written test of their knowledge of following instructions. No differences were found between the groups at posttest. Both groups' scores significantly improved from pretest to posttest. (See Figure 1 for mean scores.)

Figure 1. Mean pretest and posttest scores for the Student Knowledge Test



Research: The Following Instructions Together PD CD Program

Figure 2. Mean pretest and posttest scores for students during the Teacher-led Oral Instruction Activity



The students also completed a satisfaction questionnaire. The mean rating for manual group students was 5.6 and for the CD group students was 5.8.

Conclusions

Working through the CD professional development program combined with reading the manual produces better results in terms of teacher implementation of the program than does reading the manual alone. The combination training also produces better results with regard to student performance on a series of instruction-following tasks. Teachers in the CD group were satisfied with the CD program, and teachers in both groups were satisfied with the Following Instructions Together Program. Students in both groups were satisfied with the Following Instructions Together Program.

Reference

Vernon, D.S. (2005). *Effects of a professional development software program for the Following Instructions Together program: Progress Report for SBIR Phase II Grant*

#R44HD41819. Washington, D.C.: National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.