

Leadership Support Suggestion #2: Give the gift of time!

Written by: Allison Behne

When implemented correctly, Daily 5 will create a literacy structure conducive to learning for every child. Children will have the opportunity to receive whole group, small group, and individualized instruction based on their specific needs as a reader. This does not happen overnight, however, it takes time; time for teacher planning and collaborating with colleagues, and time to implement Daily 5 and get it up and running in the classroom. A supportive administrator can make all the difference as a teacher gets Daily 5 up and running!

What can you do?

1. Understand Daily 5 implementation takes time - A teacher who works to implement Daily 5 with fidelity will take time out of their regular schedule to explicitly model and teach expected behaviors and routines to students. This launching period takes approximately 5 - 6 weeks. During this time, teachers can feel pressure because they may not cover as much of the curriculum as they would like. However, once routines are in place and students know classroom procedures, teachers quickly learn they not only catch up but exceed their normal expectations. It is important for administrators to understand this and support their teachers as they train students and build stamina.
2. Allow and encourage collaboration - Teaching is a team sport! Teachers need to be able to celebrate successes, reflect on challenges, and share ideas. Encourage time for teachers to collaborate about what is going on in their classrooms during Daily 5 and CAFE. There are many possibilities for doing this!
 - Provide small blocks of time (10-15 min.) during meetings where teachers can collaborate with each other.
 - Organize a school wide book study from our site
 - Daily 5 <http://www.thedailycafe.com/members/2385.cfm>
 - CAFE <http://www.thedailycafe.com/members/2330.cfm>
 - Allow teachers to visit other classrooms during the Daily 5/CAFE block to see what it looks like at different grade levels with different teachers.
 - Purchase a school-wide membership to www.thedailycafe.com, where teachers can utilize the many resources and even participate in the discussion board with teachers from all over!

Encouraging collegial collaboration and allowing teachers to take the time needed to train students and build stamina will be one of the best ways you can support your teachers and increase reading success in your school!