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Welcome Back!



LeaderLink

eNewsletter

August 2008

• FORWARD TO A FRIEND

www.donjohnston.com

Share the Journey

Our first LeaderLink issue honors a long-standing tradition at Don Johnston and that is to listen and respond to our customers' voices. Each year, we hear from hundreds of professionals like you about your journey in education: successes and challenges and the bright future you want to create for your students.

In our conversations you have expressed a desire to collaborate more, apply new teaching strategies, leverage technologies and grow your knowledge, so that's what we'll focus on in the upcoming months. Allow us to walk with you on this journey—to support you when you need it and cheer with you in your successes.

Share What Works!

Collaborative Co-Teaching Tips - Make a Difference for Struggling Learners

By Lynda Mattison, Certified Special Education Teacher, Cobb County, GA



For years, Lynda Mattison has fostered collaboration among special education and general education peers. In this article she will show you how to transform the learning environment as you work to leverage skills and talents across the special/general education line.

Many thanks to Mrs. Lynda Mattison, from Mountain View Elementary School for this terrific article featuring 10 proven tips to help you collaborate effectively with your peers right out of the starting gate!

[Find out how you can foster collaboration>>>](#)

Welcome back!

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QUICK TIPS

Won't you take two minutes now to [listen to Lynda's recording](#)?

What could you share out with your peers or your community that could change a life for a struggling learner in your school?

Share your tips, questions, successes or challenges: write to leaderlinkeditor@donjohnston.com



Professional Development Strategy: Think-Pair-Share

We all know that adults learn best by reflecting on and then talking about the content before them. Here you'll find short tech tips, strategies and professional development pointers from experts in the field.

Next time you are planning a meeting or workshop, try this **Think-Pair-Share** strategy out with your peers and watch the ideas flourish!

1. **Think** : The facilitator asks or shares with participants a provocative question, prompt or observation and requests that they "THINK" for a few minutes. (SILENCE)
2. **Pair** : Participants pair up with a colleague to talk about their ideas during the "think only" process comparing mental and written notes and identify the answers they collaboratively feel are the best, most convincing or most unique.
3. **Share** : Participants are asked to share the best of the best during their collaborative discussions with their peers and choose the top ideas.

Think-Pair-Share is a cooperative discussion strategy developed by Frank Lyman to structure a discussion using "silent thinking time" and "partnering." This strategy will enable you to generate lots of good ideas without participants feeling pressure to come up with instant answers in a group.

DON JOHNSTON HAPPENINGS

What's New at Don Johnston

- **NEW 2009 Catalog Alert** – Catalog-only specials plus new products. Didn't get one? [Request your copy now!](#)
- NEW [Read:OutLoud](#) **Whole-School Licenses - as little as \$340 per school!**
- Opening the Doors to Universal Learning [TRL D](#) 2009 Conference January 22-24
Registration will open soon - [request a program now](#)

More FREE Resources

New Topic Dictionaries

US Pres Election *
Baseball Names *
Impressionism
N Am Labor
History
Summer Olympics
Where the Red
Fern Grows

[American English*](#)
[British English](#)

September topics :

Hispanic Heritage
(AE only)

[Cesar Chavez](#)
[Mexican History](#)

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Ramadan
[AE - Holidays](#)
[BE - Religious](#)
[Ed](#)



Don Johnston has
partnered with
Bookshare.org to offer a
free text reader to
qualifying students -
coming this fall.

More about
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Also sign-up to be
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USING TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM

Use Don's Book 'Building Wings' in your Classroom

Start your school year off right by sharing our [FREE Building Wings online book](#) with your colleagues and students. **Building Wings** is a touching true story written by Don Johnston about the frustration he experienced in school and what he did to become successful. Implementation materials are available [here](#).

The next LeaderLink will feature the two Building Wings Reader's Theatre contest winners! There are so many creative ways to share Building Wings with your students.

SPEAK YOUR MIND

What topic would you MOST like in future LeaderLink issues? **CLICK ONE ONLY**

[1. Case Studies - What's working with assistive technologies?](#)

[2. How to use technology in the classroom](#)

[3. Accessible Materials / NIMAS / Digital Copyright Law](#)

[4. UDL / RTI / Creative Learning Strategies](#)

[5. Pre-made lessons with audio support from Start-to-Finish](#)

STAYING LINKED

Tell Us YOUR Story

Send us **your** Don Johnston story and we may use it in a future issue! We invite you to email Val at vchernek@donjohnston.com with your questions and ideas for future LeaderLink columns.

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