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I am a  
Reading Coach:  
Now What?

Just Read, Florida! Leadership Conference  
July, 2006



# Think About It ...

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Jot down the top three questions, concerns or uncertainties that you have about coaching.





# What is a Reading Coach?

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The Just Read, Florida! office defines a reading coach as follows:

*A reading coach is a professional development liaison within the school to support, model, and continuously improve SBRR instructional programs in reading to assure reading improvement for ALL students.*





# A Reading Coach also...

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Helps others to recognize their instructional knowledge and strengths, and supports them in their learning and application of new knowledge and instructional practices.

Learning Point Associates (2004)





# Reading Coach Considerations

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- Manage your schedule
- Establish a calendar
- Build into your schedule visitations to learn the culture of the school and classrooms
- Meet with other support personnel such as administrators, etc.
- Protect your time

# Reading Coach

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Substitute

Evaluator

Quasi-administrator

Resource Teacher





# Considerations Continued ...

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- Make time to review and understand school and district DATA.
- Create a list of Reading Coaches with whom you can network.
- Meet with other reading coaches periodically to share ideas and troubleshoot.
- Gather a library of professional materials that will support your efforts.
- Keep up to date with statewide initiatives.





# REMEMBER ...

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A thousand mile  
journey begins  
with  
**ONE STEP!**



# Consider this...

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- **Under-promise, Over-deliver:**

If you over-promise and under-deliver, you will compromise your integrity and your rapport. It's easy to fall into this trap.

- **Stay Focused on Goals:**

Being goal-oriented in your work with teachers will help you work smarter, not harder and you will focus more on process.

- **Make time for Professional Development:**

It is important that you make time for your own professional development. You can only support others if you have the knowledge to do so. Build it into your schedule.





# Possible Professional Development Activities for the Reading Coach

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- Problem Solving
  - Grade level
  - Classroom
  - Individual
- Study Groups
- Sharing about Teaching Practices
- Videotape Analysis



# Possible Professional Development Activities Continued ...

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- Data Analysis
- Materials Development (such as using the Core Program [CCRP] and/or iii supplements [SRP])
- Curriculum Development
- Planning for a variety of instructional purposes such as, interdisciplinary units, the 90 minute reading block, reading in the content areas, etc.

# CONTINUUM OF COACHING

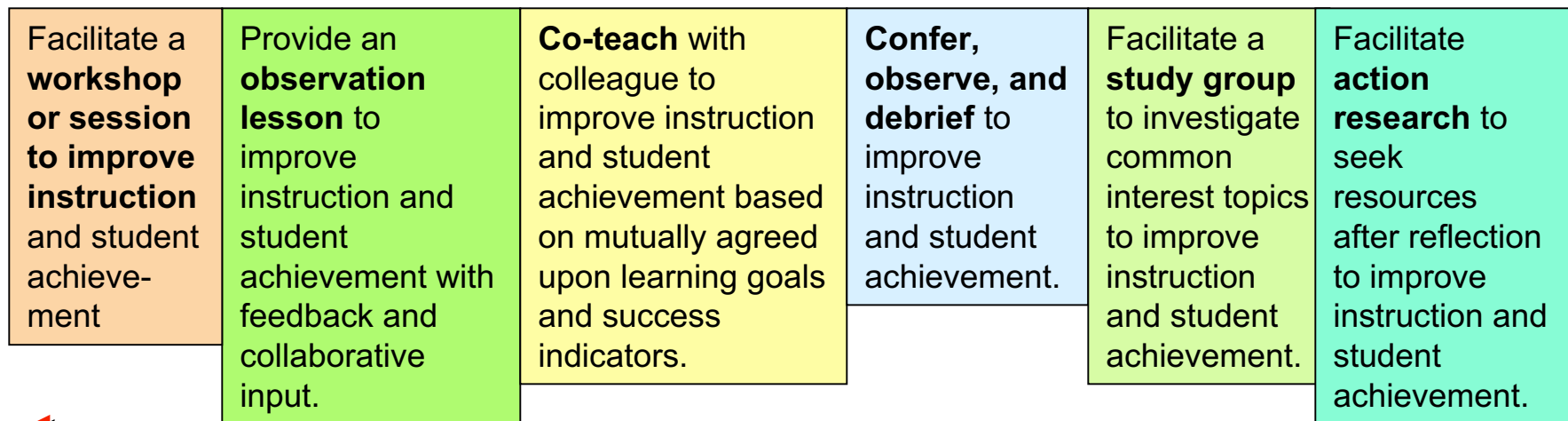
Adapted from Puig, 2002

Transformation may occur when teachers/coaches are provided opportunities to observe, co-teach, confer, study, research, and reflect on practice.

Inter-active coaching



Intra-active coaching



Increased scaffolding

Decreased scaffolding

DISEQUILIBRIUM



REFLECTION



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Coaching  
is **not**  
for the  
faint-hearted.





# First Things First ...

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Make a plan for introducing yourself in your new role as reading coach to your faculty.





# Reflect

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- Think back to the three questions, concerns or uncertainties that you had about coaching
- What questions, concerns or uncertainties still remain?
- Share with your neighbor.



# Coaching Resources

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- [www.justreadflorida.com](http://www.justreadflorida.com)
- [www.fcrr.org](http://www.fcrr.org)
- [dibels.uoregon.edu](http://dibels.uoregon.edu)
- The Reading Coach: A How-To Manual for Success, Jan Hasbrouck and Carolyn Denton
- The Literacy Coach's Handbook: A Guide to Research Based Practice, Sharon Walpole and Michael C. McKenna
- The Literacy Coach's Survival Guide: Essential Questions and Practical Answers, Cathy A. Toll



# Conference Recommendations

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## Highly recommended sessions:

- Coaches Log: An Overview (K-12)
- Elementary Reading Block (K-5)
- An Introduction and Overview of PMRN  
(Elementary session and Secondary session)
- DIBELS: Current Issues and Frequent  
Questions (K-5)
- Successful Secondary Coaching:  
It Works (6-12)



# Recommendations Continued ...

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## General knowledge building sessions:

- Print Rich Environment (K-12)
- Understanding the Five Essential Elements of Reading (K-12)
- The Effective Classroom Library (K-5)
- LTM: Reading in the Content Areas – Meaningful and Strategic Instruction in Every Classroom (6-12)





# Parting Thought ...

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What counts is  
**not the number of  
hours you put in, but  
how much you put  
into those hours.**

Harry Wong

