

Reflecting on our Learning

Session I of the *SC Response to Intervention Workshops for Classroom Teachers* focused on what research says about ensuring that struggling readers read enough. We talked about building reading volume by getting enough books, making them available to readers, and setting up and using independent reading and shared reading to support reading volume.

Over the next month, we would like you to conduct a mini-study in your own classroom so you can get a handle on how much your lowest readers are actually reading. Observe your three lowest readers during independent reading and use the *Ministudy* sheet to record your observations.

- Try to do your first observation within a week of this first session. After you observe these children, take 10 minutes or so to reflect in your RtI journal.
- Next, set about doing what you can to make more books accessible to these children. Teach them how to select appropriate books. Teach them how to engage in longer and longer periods of reading. Then see what happens. Do a second observation, record the results, and reflect again in your journal.
- Wait until right before you come back, and do a third observation and reflect again about what you are learning. (If you can only do two observations, do one right after Session I and one right before Session II).
- Fill out another rubric based on what is happening in your classroom now.
- Bring your journal, your mini-study, and your rubric with you to Session II.

You might want to use these ideas from Morgan's book as "food" for reflection. As you observe your students,

- Who gets started right away?
- Who has a difficult time finding a book and getting settled?
- Who keeps switching books, never quite finishing one before beginning another?
- Who gets lost in a book?
- Who seems easily distracted?
- What might you do to teach those children who need help to engage in reading independently? Remember that these children may simply be continuing long-ingrained habits. They need help to develop new ones.