

Chapter 12

Problem Solving Teams: A Thirty-Minute Peer-Helping Model

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PROBLEM-SOLVING STRATEGIES FOR TEACHERS

Schools which successfully include all students must employ a range of strategies and techniques so teachers can gain the support they need. The teacher-helping-teacher problem solving strategy has proven to be an effective method of creating open, productive collaborative consultation among educators. We have developed and refined the strategy over several years. It has been particularly useful as we have implemented integrated or inclusionary programs for all students.

The fundamental principle of the process is that *teachers can help other teachers*. Problem solving proceeds through an orderly sequence of steps from the initial designation of the problem to the development and implementation of a plan to resolve it, to evaluation of progress, to monitoring. The process is dynamic, evolving, flexible, and cyclical in nature.