

Preface

The series *What Every Teacher Should Know* was written to help educators navigate the complex maze of teaching. It gives practical information about important classroom topics and helps teachers refine their skills to become dynamic, engaging, life-long educators.

How many workshops tell educators that they need to be doing something—yet do not teach them how to do it? *What Every Teacher Should Know* gives practical information and strategies teachers need to make students more successful, while the activities in this training manual provide an opportunity for teachers to implement what they have learned. Reading the books provides participants with valuable information, but meaningful dialogue with other professionals deepens their understanding. The training manual is designed to help professional development facilitators guide the participants through numerous exercises and activities to gain maximum benefit from the research and theory provided in the text.

Professional development must be more than “sit and get” sessions. It must be a high-quality training program that is relevant to day-to-day teaching, aligns with the school goals, and includes follow-up and support (National Staff Development Council, 2001). Professionals need sufficient time and support to construct meaning and to translate what they are learning into daily practice. The time and support necessary for valuable, high-quality professional development are built into this book series and training program. Throughout this training, professionals will engage in meaningful, purposeful dialogue concerning differentiation in the use of time, planning, and instructional practices to meet the needs of all learners.

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