

Preface

I can still remember when I first heard the term *Response to Intervention* (RTI) many years ago. I said, “What’s that?” The person who had mentioned it said, “It’s going to be the next hot topic in education.” He knew very little about it—just that a federal law had been passed that mentioned RTI.

That conversation stimulated my interest. I started digging around to see what I could find out about RTI. The first thing I heard was it meant that general education teachers would bear the responsibility of implementing RTI for students with difficulties within the general education classroom. My initial thoughts were, “How will they do that? They are often alone in the classroom. They are already overwhelmed. Will this overwhelm them even more?” My next thoughts were about the students. I wondered if this would really benefit them.

I then launched a super-quest. I searched on the Internet. I ordered every book that had been written on RTI. I looked at every bit of research that had been done. I read every journal article I could find. I contacted the authors of the journal articles. I attended every meeting with a speaker on RTI. I asked questions, but found that many times the speakers couldn’t answer practical questions. I wanted practical information, but instead received answers that were mostly theoretical and complex. I kept digging, and the more I learned, the more I liked what I found as I sifted through the maze. I became convinced that RTI was something that would help students. My previous books and talks were all strategy-based. I was determined to write a book about RTI. I was determined to put all the information I found together in an easy-to-read format. I was fortunate to be able to visit a school district that was implementing RTI. I was even more fortunate to have a former speaker for our company who was now principal of a school that was implementing RTI. I was able to interview him and other educators around the country, and ask them what they really wanted to know about RTI.

They all said they wanted the nuts and bolts, not just the theory. They knew they had to do it. They just wanted to know how to do it, and do it right. They wanted to know how to create collaborative teams that want

to implement RTI. They wanted to know more about students with learning disabilities. They wanted to know academic and behavioral research-based interventions. They wanted to know how to continually progress monitor students in the least time consuming, but accurate, ways.

That is what this book is about. It is the nuts and bolts. Yes, there will be some explanations about RTI, its history, and the basic fundamentals, but they will be brief and all tied in to practical how-to's so that when you finish reading this book, you can implement RTI in your school or classroom.

It is my personal belief that RTI is one of the best and most important strategies in education. It will literally transform schools in the United States. It will help students succeed in ways that no other legislation has done. In the end, not only will the students be more successful, but the schools will be more successful as well. And our society will be a better place for children because they will have succeeded, thanks to RTI.