



Practicing Wait time

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Practicing wait time in a classroom

We are so happy to hear that many of you have printed out the CARE SKILLS sheet and are posting it in your classrooms. Rebecca Vaughn, from Fayetteville Perry took the time to color in the little people and she was happy for me to share it with you. Nancy Suer from Bond Hill used the yarn from our closing ceremony as a border on her sheet. Please continue to share your ideas with us so we can send them out to our CARE community. Today's e-mail topic is **Practicing Wait Time** in the classroom. Take a moment to reflect on your style of asking questions in the classroom. How long do you give students a chance to respond? Research tells us that typically, the wait time or period of silence lasts .5-1.5 seconds in classroom discussions.



However, when these periods of silence last at least three seconds, many significant changes occur in the classroom, including:

- The length and correctness of student's responses increase.
- The number of their "I don't know" and "no" answer responses decreases.
- The number of volunteered, appropriate answers by larger numbers of students greatly increases.
- The scores of students on academic achievement tests tend to increase.

Changes in teacher behaviors:

- Their questioning strategies tend to be more varied and flexible.
- They decrease the quantity and increase the quality and variety of their questions.
- They ask additional questions that require more complex information processing and higher-level thinking on the part of students.

(Casteel and Stahl, 1973; Rowe 1972; Stahl 1990; Tobin 1987)

Adding wait time to your teaching repertoire will have a positive impact on student performance. Still, it may be difficult to implement because many teachers are uncomfortable with classroom silence. However, just like we encourage you to use pause time before responding, students too need the pause time to reflect on your

questions so they can give their most thoughtful response. Looking forward to seeing you at our next coaching session.

Arlene, Nancy and Jaimi