

Reflection on Action Research

James Rockford

James Rockford is an elementary teacher in a rural school district in Oregon. James is responsible primarily for teaching music and computer keyboarding skills to young children and initially became involved with action research as part of a statewide action research initiative. As a result of his first attempt at doing action research and his effort to make it a standard part of his teaching, James has also worked as a mentor for other teachers in his region. James's story highlights the importance of collecting data from a variety of sources to fully understand the effects of an intervention on student outcomes.

It seemed to be a perfect match. I had charge of a new computer lab and a mandate to develop a program of instruction to match the curriculum guide, and I needed a "problem" for a collaborative action research class.

The only software that came with the computers was a popular program to teach keyboarding and ClarisWorks. It didn't make any sense to spend several