

Teacher Research and Impact on Classroom Practice

Teacher Research

A photograph of a teacher with long dark hair, wearing a green top, smiling and looking down at two young children sitting at a table. The children, a boy and a girl, are focused on an activity on the table. The background is a blurred classroom with bookshelves.

Terms:

Action Research

Teacher Research

Practitioner Inquiry

Practitioner Research

Teacher Research in PK-12th Grade Contexts

Traditions of Practitioner Research

1. Literacy Education
2. Early Childhood Education
3. Teacher Education
M.Ed. Capstone/Thesis
Student Teaching
National Board Certification
4. School Districts
School or district initiatives
Differentiated supervision/
alternative evaluation
5. Teacher Networks



Action Research in PK-12th Grade Contexts

Publications dedicated to teacher research

Inquiry in Education Journal

Journal of Practitioner Research

Voices of Practitioners

George Mason University

Networks

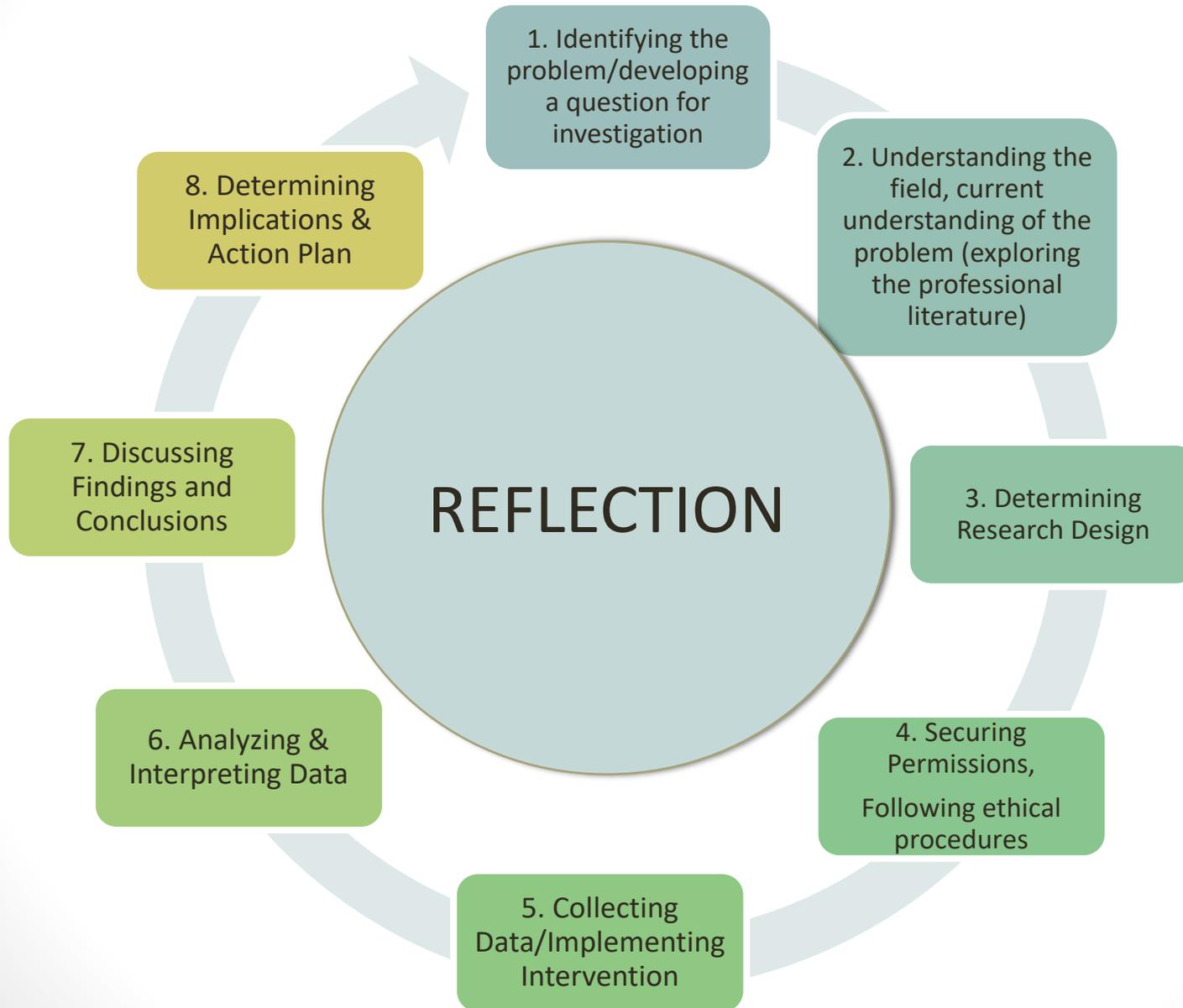
Journal of Teacher Action Research

Canadian Journal for Teacher Research



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Action Research Process



Teacher Research should...

Maintain a focus on the improving teaching practice, student learning, and/or student experience

Be grounded in developmentally appropriate practice, effective subject area pedagogy, relevant contextual factors

Follow guidelines for ethical research, school/site approval processes, and protect participants' well-being & anonymity.

Lead to the researcher's understanding of her/his teaching, students' learning or daily experiences

Lead to improvement or change in daily teaching/interactions with students, families, others.

Teacher Research can...

Assist teachers in developing habits of systematic inquiry into their own practice

Provide a framework to identify & examine problems of practice, leading to change in teaching/student learning

Create opportunities for teacher collaboration, sharing, collegial professional development

Enhance teacher confidence in leading within the classroom and school

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What Do Teachers Investigate?

Teachers research specific:

- Curriculum Initiatives
- Instructional Methods
- Materials
- Specific Student Needs or Sub-Groups' Needs
- Classroom Environment
- Relationships
- School-Wide Programs or Initiatives

Instructional Methods

Context	Research Topic or Question
Pre-K to Elementary	Using free-play centers in Kindergarten: Authentic use of literacy skills Effectiveness of various sight word strategies in Grade 1 Implementing mathematics problem-solving strategies via small group direct instructional settings
Middle/High	Strengthening MS student mathematics homework participation Morpheme-based vocabulary in MS science
Special Area	Implementing choice-based and student-directed learning in a 3 rd grade Art classroom Using iPads to enhance student planning in Art Daily check-ins: Guidance & elementary collaboration

Instructional Materials

Context	Research Topic or Question
Pre-K to Elementary	<p>Loose Parts and Nature-Based Learning in PK</p> <p>Materials for introducing early science concepts to toddlers- solids and liquids</p> <p>Using a social stories to support children with Autism in Kindergarten</p> <p>Picture books: Exploring contemporary depictions of play and impact on teachers' choices in materials & methods</p> <p>Nature-based materials in upper elementary science</p>
Middle/High	<p>Digital mathematics portfolios to support middle school mathematics learning</p>
Special Area	<p>Materials for music curriculum alignment with Habits of Mind</p> <p>Music preparation and teaching: International comparisons</p>

Student Needs

Individual, Sub-Group, Full Group

Context	Research Topic or Question
Pre-K to Elementary	<p>The use of student-led literature discussions to improve comprehension students reading below grade level</p> <p>Use of self-assessment to increase student awareness writing conventions and content for striving writers</p> <p>Reluctant/uninspired readers-motivation for reading in upper ES</p> <p>Increasing motivation and achievement in reading via student-selected book clubs</p>
Middle/High	<p>Tracking in mathematics-self perception of beginning high school students</p> <p>Peer mentoring: Students in general & special education</p>
Special Area	<p>Supporting striving readers via reading specialist pull-out intervention time</p>

Classroom Environment or Relationships

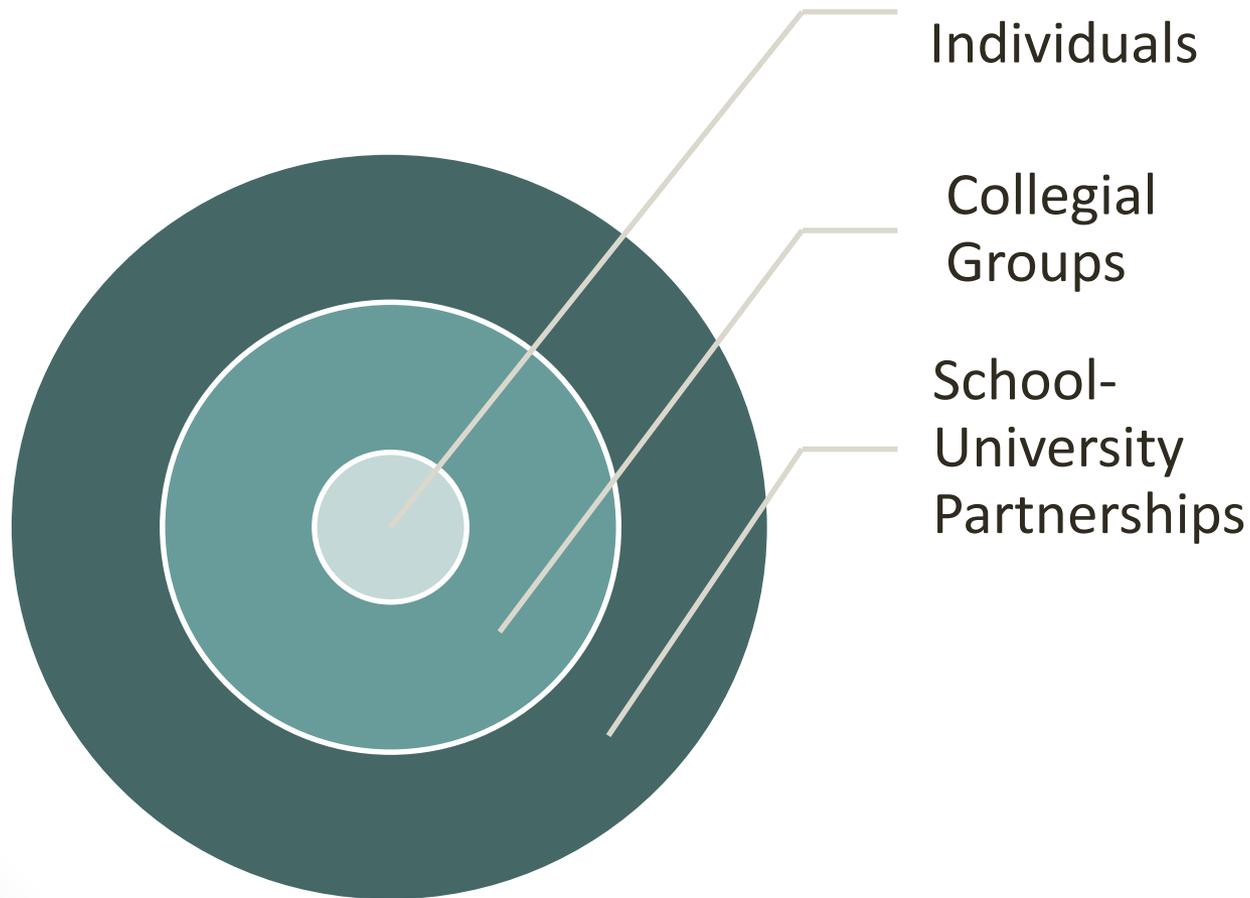
Context	Research Topic or Question
Pre-K to Elementary	<p>Implementing Movement and Purposeful Breaks in the Early Elementary Classroom</p> <p>Using cooperative learning structures in an online setting to support relationships among peers</p> <p>Building the school-home connection; alternative methods of engaging parents</p> <p>Stress reduction for teachers-collaborative after school groups</p> <p>Stress reduction for students-integrating relaxation techniques during subject transitions</p>
MS/HS	<p>Kinesthetic learning in the MS science classroom: Enhancing student experience and achievement</p> <p>MS Advisory: Purposeful activities to enhance student experience and relationships</p>

Curriculum & School-Wide Initiatives

Context	Research Topic or Question
Pre-K to Elementary	<p>Integration of STEAM to encourage social, linguistic and cognitive development in Pre-K</p> <p>Second Step: Social Emotional Learning &</p> <p>Purposeful play: Reintegration of play in the Kindergarten classroom</p> <p>Implementation of Eureka Math in upper elementary</p> <p>Implementation of PBIS in MS</p>
Middle/High	<p>STEM in the Middle School: Use of maker-spaces and collaborative teaching of STEM content and concepts</p> <p>Use of 1:1 devices in content areas: MS Math; MS Science; HS Science,</p>
Special Area	<p>1:1 Devices in the Arts or FCS</p> <p>Linking the Music Curriculum to the Habits of Mind Framework</p>

Future Directions

Supporting Teacher Researchers in Generating Knowledge about Teaching and Learning



Future Directions

Supporting Teacher Researchers in Disseminating Findings, Adapting Practice

