

“The reason for high achievement on these tests is that _____ has improved students’ ability to read technical information,” Berg said. “We believe Direct Instruction is an outstanding methodology.”

Direct Instruction Programs Help All Students

Now Direct Instruction’s _____ is used school-wide in Grades K–6. _____ a vocabulary development program, is used in Kindergarten and Grade 1, and _____ is used with struggling readers in Grades 4–6.

“We think Direct Instruction is phenomenal for all kids,” Berg said. “About 23% of our children are classified as students with disabilities, and we know the program has made a tremendous difference for them.”

Berg said teachers have experienced positive success stories with Direct Instruction since the school opened. One touching story is that of a 10-year-old who had suffered brain damage in a car accident. Direct Instruction succeeded where other programs failed.

“She read to me in front of the entire class,” Berg said. “She could finally do what all the other kids had been doing for years.”

In addition, Berg said Direct Instruction works well with older children who are non-readers. “We absolutely believe in the programs. Direct Instruction is the most critical component of our balanced literacy curriculum.”

Multiple Awards

Louisa May Alcott Elementary has received multiple awards for its academic success.

To receive Ohio’s School of Promise Award, at least 50% of the students must meet low-income criteria, and at least 75% must pass reading or math proficiency tests. Louisa May Alcott Elementary received Ohio’s School of Promise Award for academic achievement in math in 2002, and for academic achievement in reading and math in 2003 and 2004.

The school also won three national awards for the 2003-2004 school year: the No Child Left Behind National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence Award, the Title I Distinguished School Award, and the Help One Student to Succeed (HOSTS) National Exemplary Award for its outstanding efforts in mentoring at-risk students.

“We absolutely attribute these recognitions to Direct Instruction,” Berg explained. “I totally believe in it, as do our teachers.”
