



CCLD Action-Based Research Project

IMPROVE YOUR INSTRUCTION AND YOUR STUDENTS' LEARNING

CCLD Action Research Project

Beginning in 2018, The Colorado Council for Learning Disabilities will award two \$500.00 Classroom Grants for outstanding action research. All participants who successfully complete a project will be recognized in *LD Forum*, a national publication for professionals in the field of special education. These teachers will also be featured in the CCLD newsletter and on the CCLD website.

The action research process allows teachers to collect data, analyze student learning, and identify changes that improve teaching and learning. It will help answer questions about the effectiveness of specific instructional strategies, the performance of specific students,

and effectiveness of classroom management techniques.

The term "action research" was started by Kurt Lewin in 1944 to describe a process of investigation and inquiry that occurs as action taken to solve a problem. Today it is a way to reflect with a goal of improving understanding and practice. The action component is the intended change to be implemented and the research portion enhances understanding.

Action research also allows teachers to *take charge of their personal professional development*. It facilitates self-reflection on teaching practices and helps generate new ideas for training needs in instruction and classroom management.

The Colorado Council for Learning Disabilities created a unique research project in the mid 1980's that continues today partly because of the legacy of three wonderful and dedicated educators: Gertrude Meyers, Ellie Smucker, and Beatrice Fern.

And so it is that CCLD, an organization that has always been run by strong, dedicated teachers has a tangible legacy to give to teachers to encourage them to explore and evaluate promising practices for students who are struggling learners. It is gratifying to know that this legacy continues.

Applications are currently being accepted. Teachers are encouraged to view the Research Project application and rubric (www.cocld.org) for details.