SENTENCE-COMBINING INSTRUCTION

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RATIONALE

- School-aged children with poor writing abilities use fewer complex sentences in their writing than typical peers.
- Sentence-combining instruction provides models for children to follow.
- Teachers, speech-language pathologists, and writing specialists can deliver sentence-combining instruction.

HOW IT WORKS

- Students are given a simple sentence kernel (1 T-unit).
- Students are presented with an additional simple sentence kernel or T-unit.
- Students combine these simple sentences into longer, more syntactically complex sentences.

EXAMPLE

The dog has no food. The dog is hungry. The dog is hungry because he has no food.

DOES IT WORK?

"...with few exceptions, sentence-combining has been shown to be an effective method for helping students produce more syntactically mature sentences" (Saddler, Behloraooz, & Asano, 2008).

![Comparison of sentence-combining standard scores before and after intervention]

YES!

REFERENCES