SCORE again! Manual’s format, content, appearance revised

Over the past couple of years, we have received lots of feedback about the SCORE Skills Instructor’s Manual. We have heard great success stories about the results that have been produced in classrooms across the country with regard to students learning how to work with each other. We also heard that the format of the book was difficult to use, that the style was “too elementary,” that the skill steps needed modification, and that the lessons were too long. In an effort to respond to teachers’ feedback, we have overhauled the whole book. The content changes that have been made are as follows:

1. The lessons have been shortened. Only the most critical content has been kept.
2. The second model of each skill has been omitted. Teachers indicated that they felt that the second model was redundant and not needed, and they were dropping it from their instruction. Our data indicate that we can get great results with just one teacher model.
3. The SEE Steps have been simplified. Both voice tone and facial expression now have only two options: pleasant or neutral.
4. The Skill Steps for the Compliment Others Skill, the Offer Help or Encouragement Skill, and the Recommend Changes Nice Skill have been modified. “Say the person’s name” has been deleted as a separate skill step from the cue cards on all three skills. The step seemed unnecessary for students who are working in a small group over a long period of time; however, the text recommends that the step can be used whenever appropriate. The skill steps for the Offer Help or Encouragement Skill are “Ask if the person wants help,” “Give help,” and “Offer encouragement.” For the Recommend Changes Nicely Skill, the skill step “Explain what was incorrect” was changed to “Explain what could be changed.”
5. The Activity Sheets, Skill Watch Sheets, and the SCOREboard Activity have been omitted. Teachers indicated that the amount of copying and paperwork was unwieldy.

Some of the activities still are described in the text, however.
6. An application activity has been added to each skill lesson.
7. A role-play activity has been added to each role-play sheet so that there are four role-play activities for each pair (two for each person).
8. More information has been included in the At-a-Glance pages. Prompts for teacher questions have been added.

In addition, the following changes have been made to improve the appearance, durability, and usefulness of the manual:

1. The cover is coated with a special finish to improve its life.
2. The manual is three-hole punched.
3. The layout of the pages has been changed to make them easy to read and to provide more white space for notes. The two-column format has been converted to a one-column format.
4. Mini-pictures of the cue cards and student materials appear in the margin to cue the teacher as to which visual device is most appropriate at a particular time.
5. The art work has been changed to make the materials appear more appropriate for older students.
6. The size of the headings has been increased to improve readability.
7. Possible student responses have been bulleted and put into list form instead of being buried in the text.

We’re hoping that these changes will be helpful for future users of the instructional procedures. We knew that making substantial changes in the skill steps would mean that you would have to change the overheads you use when you train teachers to teach the SCORE Skills, but we didn’t see any way to avoid this reality, given the amount of feedback we had received. As always, all trainers will receive a 40 percent discount on personal copies of the manual. Please be sure to review the new manual and make new overheads before you train teachers to teach the SCORE Skills, because every page of the new manual is different from the old manual.
Dr. Gordon Alley

Dr. Gordon Alley passed away on Sunday, February 16, 1997. As most of you know, Gordon was one of the key figures in establishing the Center for Research on Learning in 1977. His leadership and intellectual contributions were instrumental in laying the foundation for the Strategic Instruction Model. Without his influence and commitment to finding ways to more effectively teach adolescents with learning disabilities, the CRL would not have developed as it has.

The Gordon R. Alley Partnership Award, given annually by the CRL to outstanding educational leaders, stands as a lasting testament to the magnitude of his contributions and the fact that Gordon felt that the greatest thing that he could do was to be a helpful partner to others. He was a wonderful colleague and friend to all at the CRL.

The family suggests memorials to the First Presbyterian Church, Hospice Care of Douglas County, or the Gordon R. Alley Scholarship for students in special education at the KU Endowment Association, in care of Warren-McElwain Mortuary, 120 W. 13th Street, Lawrence, KS 66044, (913) 843-1120.

For those of you who know Gordon's wife, Eva, her address is 2743 Alabama, Lawrence, KS 66046.

StrateWorks membership

This issue of StratEnotes has been sent to all trainers, active and inactive. Trainers must meet the following two criteria to maintain an active status:

1. **Attend an update training session every two years.** The CRL publishes four to six new instructional products every year. These are presented at each of the update sessions so that SIM Trainers can be on the cutting edge with the most current thinking and developments relative to strategic instruction. Trainers have several options for participating in update training sessions. Every year, the CRL hosts a national conference in Lawrence (this year it is July 10-12, 1997) and several regional meetings. During the 1996-97 academic year, regional meetings were held in October in St. Louis, Missouri; November in Rensselaer, New York; and February in Charleston, South Carolina, Las Vegas, Nevada, and Chicago, Illinois. Next year, we plan three regional conferences: the Northeast in the fall, the Far West in February, and the Southeast the first weekend in March.

2. **Subscribe to StrateWorks.** StrateWorks is a collection of different tools produced by the CRL to communicate with the SIM Network on a continuing basis:
   - **Stratenotes** — a newsletter designed to present ideas on current trends in education relevant to strategic instruction as well as information about new material releases and training sessions (published nine times a year).
   - **Strategram** — a publication aimed at practicing teachers that contains hands-on classroom implementation ideas (published six times a year).
   - **StrateNET** — an electronic communications network that enables SIM Trainers to communicate with each other and with the CRL and to receive “hot-off-the-press” information electronically.
   - **Stratelink Connection** — videotaped programs designed to show actual teaching demonstrations and to hear from SIM Trainers and CRL staff. (A limited number of free copies are available for study groups and active network trainers. Others can be purchased for $15.00.)
   - **StrateDirectory** — a listing of all trainers who complete the Directory Information Form. The form is available at update training meetings and in the back of the 1997 StrateDirectory.

The annual subscription rate for StrateWorks is only $35.00. Send your check to the University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning, 3061 Dole, Lawrence, KS 66045.

StratePubs clarification

The 1997 StratePubs publication, which was mailed recently to active trainers, inadvertently omitted the full citation for one of the articles, "Learning Strategies: Tools for Learning to Learn in Middle and High Schools," by Brenda K. Oas, Jean B. Schumaker, and Donald D. Deshler, appeared as a chapter in *Secondary Education and Beyond: Providing Opportunities for Students with Learning Disabilities*. This book was published by the Learning Disabilities Association of America, 4156 Library Road, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15234, in March 1995.

StratePubs, which is distributed to StrateWorks members, is an annual publication featuring two recent articles of interest to SIM Trainers.

National Conference registration

A registration form for the National SIM Trainers Conference, which will be July 10-12, 1997, in Lawrence, Kansas, can be found on page 5 of this issue of StratEnotes. Please complete the form and return it to the Center for Research on Learning by May 15, 1997, to avoid a late fee.

The back of the form (page 6) describes our call for presentation proposals and provides a place for participants to tell us what strategies, routines, and topics they would like to see on the conference agenda and to request meetings with CRL staff members.

This issue also contains lodging and transportation information for the conference and summer workshops.