Concepts addressed:
Major Categories, Advantages and Appropriate Uses of Instructional Strategies

Organizing and Supporting Individual and Group Work in the Classroom


"Researchers have found that the degree of success students have on school tasks correlates highly with achievement in the subject area (p. 151)."

Structuring Learning for Success

To structure successful learning opportunities, teachers must continually reflect on how instructional activities meet the current needs and abilities of students. If tasks are too difficult, students may learn their efforts only lead to failure. On the other hand, if tasks are too easy, students may learn it takes little or no effort to succeed.

Teacher Modeling and Demonstration

Teachers must be careful to avoid assumptive teaching. Modeling and explicit demonstration using a "think aloud" approach when presenting new information can assist students in better understanding the concepts or skills. Allowing students time to engage in "guided practice" before being asked to work individually can also increase understanding and performance.

Scaffolding

Teachers can "scaffold" student learning of complex tasks in many ways including using explicit explanations of concepts and directions and presenting manageable steps that students can concentrate on one at a time.