



Collaboration in Teaching and Learning

Dr. Dennis M. Demuth, Superintendent

Victory Christian School

One of our goals is to improve instruction and learning by increasing the effectiveness of our professional staff. This publication is designed to share ideas, present action research, and some of the best practices found in education.

We welcome collaboration across grade levels and content areas. If you are using an instructional technique that really works in your classroom, or you come across research that would relate to what we are doing at Victory Christian School, or hear about staff who are having great results with a certain approach, we encourage you to place them in writing to be included in this publication. Our goal is to present no less than two publications per month. Once they are published, they will be saved on our file server under Teacher Resources/ShareAnIdea.

Consider the following idea to increase memorization efficiency.

Backward Chaining

This is often a very effective way of memorizing long scripture version or just about any complex sequences of behavior. In forward chaining, you are teaching A to Z; in backward teaching, you are teaching Z to A.

Backward chaining is a chaining procedure that begins with the last element in the chain and proceeds to the first element. Backward chaining allows a child to experience instant success. "As more steps are added, a child completes the newly taught step immediately, followed by the steps she has already mastered. This can minimize anxiety and provide a child with a sense of accomplishment." This feeling of success will

increase his confidence and keep him motivated to learn and complete the entire sequence of steps. In essence, completion of the steps operates as a natural reinforcer for a child.

To illustrate backward chaining, consider the following example: The backward chaining procedure builds on the fact that it is easier to add one word to a given verse than to combine three or more words into a total verse.

The verse "... I WILL NOT FORGET THY WORD. Psalms 119:16: would proceed as follows: Have your child say the number of the reference verse first, then the number of the chapter. Then have him say these two together. Next, have him give the book of the Bible (Psalms) and then add this with the 119:16 combinations. The steps would look like this:

- *16
- *119
- *119:16
- *Psalms
- *Psalms 119:16
- *word
- *word. Psalms 119:16
- *Thy
- *Thy word. Psalms 119:16
- *Forget
- *Forget thy word. Psalms 119:16
- *Not
- *Not forget thy word. Psalms 119:16
- *Will
- *Will not forget thy word. Psalms 119:16
- *I
- *I will not forget thy word. Psalms 119:16

This backward chaining procedure builds in more success than the traditional method while holding the difficulty level down. It is important to reinforce each step in the backward chain with affirmation and praise. This gives the child an experience of success and completion with every attempt.