

WHAT IS CHART-SHARING?

Chart-sharing is an opportunity to get some work done, to share your successful charts with one another and get help for problem charts, to learn some new things, and to practice some old ones.

As you learn to use learning pictures for making decisions about your students' programs (or your students learn to do so for themselves), Chart-sharing sessions will provide some time each week to look at learning pictures, make decisions, and revise "Is" Plans. Doing these things in a group allows for sharing and group problem-solving. Hopefully, everybody will want to share at least one or two of their charts with the group each week. The standard charting format, by providing a common visual "language," makes sharing and communication a lot easier.

The process is simple. First, get a piece of clear acetate and a washable transparency pen (e.g., Sanford Company's Vis-a-vis). Line up the acetate with the chart (it should just fit), being sure that the right margins of the chart and acetate are exactly even. Then carefully trace all the information written on your chart (dates, identifying information and data) onto the acetate.

That's all there is to it! Now you have a transparency that can be shown on the overhead. Try to think about your chart and what you want to say about it beforehand so that when you get up to share it, you'll be able to do it in about 5 minutes or less (so everyone can have a turn). Describe the movement cycle(s) and procedures as clearly as possible, and tell about any decisions or changes you've made, why you made them, and their effects. Try to get those in the group to ask questions, share common experiences, or offer suggestions for improvement.

Since everybody will have turns at both presenting and being in the "audience," we'll all have to learn how to do both parts as well as we can. Most people start out a little nervous about sharing. But we're all in it together. Those showing charts need to be clear, and should ask for help if they need it. Those watching should be sure to offer help, and should applaud those who share. If we all do our best, the process will provide multiple opportunities for learning each week. And the real pay-off will be more improving learning pictures for our students.