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Echoes from the Field

Joe R. Chapel*

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Abstract

One of the more recent developments in reading education is the programmed material called DIST AR, an acronym for "Direct Instructional System for Teaching and Remediation." It was developed by Siegfried Engelmann, University of Oregon, and Elaine C. Bruner, Educational Specialist, Bureau of Educational Research, University of Illinois.

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Because DISTAR has been discussed so extensively in the United States today, Dorothy Smith of the Reading Center and Clinic and Joe Chapel of the Reading Resources Center presented a demonstration and panel discussion of the program to educators in southwestern Michigan on May 4. The all day program featured a talk by Elaine Bruner and a presentation by Carol Ulrich who is on the staff of one of the Learning Villages in Kalamazoo. Two demonstrations were given using the DISTAR materials; one by Antoinette Johns, East Comstock Special Education teacher, and the other by the co-author of DISTAR, Elaine Bruner. A panel consisting of Dr. Morvin Wirtz, Dr. William Cansfield, Mrs. Jan Fortenbacher and Joe R. Chapel discussed advantages and disadvantages of the program.