

Comparison of Reading Specialists and Literacy Coaches

Reading Specialists	Literacy Coaches
Work duties include supporting students, parents, and administrators as well as teachers	Work duties emphasize support for teachers, although support for others also may take place.
Frequently provide direct instruction to students on a daily basis.	Provide direct instruction to students primarily when demonstrating for teachers.
Provides evaluations of students for a variety of reasons, including curriculum monitoring, student diagnosis, & monitoring teacher/school effectiveness.	Provides evaluation of students primarily to demonstrate for teachers or to support teachers in their instructional decision making.
Works directly with teachers to an extent but does not necessarily focus work on this area.	Spends a great amount of time working directly with teachers in individual and small-group meetings.
When working with teachers, may be responding to teachers' needs and concerns but may also be directing teacher to meet requirements or implement mandatory programs.	Most work with teachers is in response to their needs and concerns.

From: *The Literacy Coach's Survival Guide: Essential Questions and Practical Answers* by Cathy A. Toll (International Reading Association, 2004).