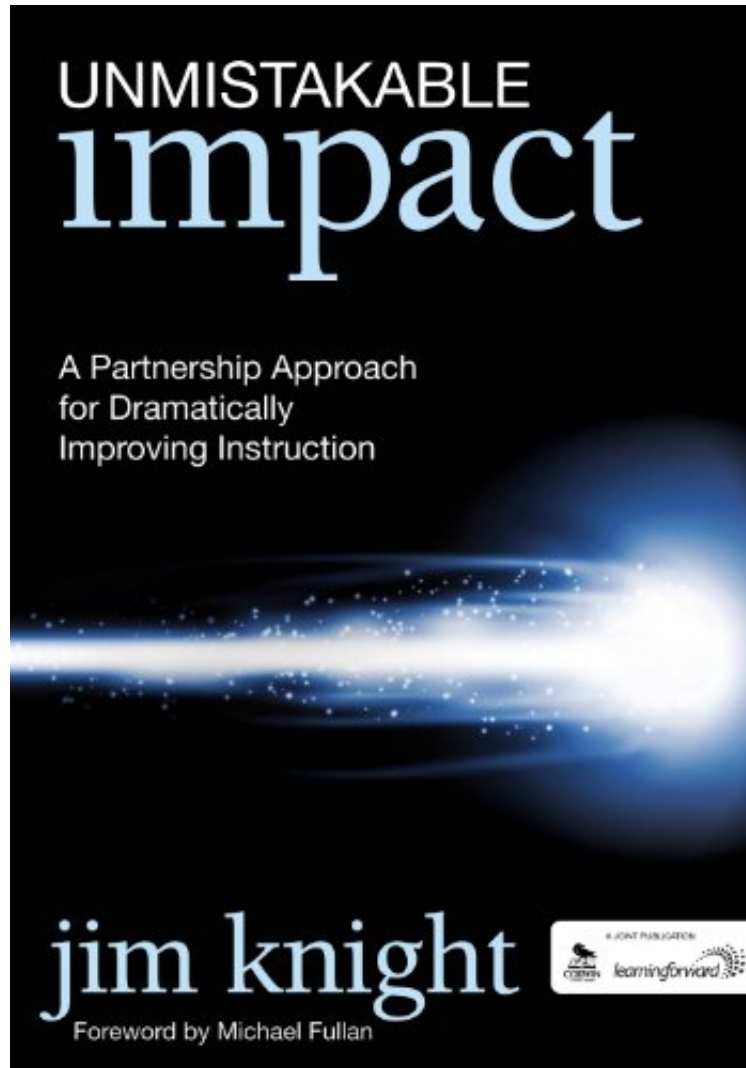


(Ebook free) Unmistakable Impact: A Partnership Approach for Dramatically Improving Instruction

# Unmistakable Impact: A Partnership Approach for Dramatically Improving Instruction

*Jim Knight*

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**Jim Knight : Unmistakable Impact: A Partnership Approach for Dramatically Improving Instruction** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Unmistakable Impact: A Partnership Approach for Dramatically Improving Instruction:

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. If Your School Lacks Vision...By KCGood stuff, though maybe not for every teacher, mostly because it is of a more theoretical bent, explaining how we can turn our schools into what Knight calls Impact Schools. One way is to embrace the "Big Four" and focus on behavior (classroom management), planning of content, delivery of instruction, and assessment for learning (formative, as we call it). It all intrigued me

enough to order his most recent title, *High-Impact Instruction: A Framework for Great Teaching*, which promises to focus on classroom applications -- my bread and butter, thank you. One thing you have to give Knight is his scholarly approach. I've read books where sources are named and even explained in the copy, but this tops all. Knight is a reading machine who clearly lives and breaths not only research on pedagogy but on what drives humans. Meaning: He also mentions books the business world resorts to when trying to get the most out of its managers, books like Peter Senge's *The Fifth Discipline* and Atul Gawande's *Checklist Manifesto*. While teachers may find material of interest here -- teachers big on an overall game plan and interested in instigating a "vision" for their schools -- the book really speaks to principals and instructional coaches (essential, according to Knight, for help in following up professional development). In fact, PD is the lifeblood of an impact school. As Knight so neatly puts it, "When teachers stop learning, so do students." And yet, in many schools, PD budgets are anemic or wasted one-day wonders, where teachers dutifully attend, nod their heads in agreement (or boredom), then return to business as usual in their classrooms. Ah, education! I especially like the book's emphasis on simplicity. Many districts have a school improvement plan, but I dare you to interview teachers to find out exactly what's on it. I daresay most will come up empty and some might recall one or maybe two points tops. Knight believes a one-page target document should replace the SIP -- a brief piece that lists goals teachers and principal have agreed upon, goals not only for teachers but for students. These will obviously be restricted to the most important goals to the school, ones that all hands must be on deck for. From that point on, it's up to the principal, the instructional coaches, and the teachers themselves to keep each other on target for the good of the school's students. The one-pager will sit out and in clear sight in every room. Each chapter ends with two features, one called "To Sum Up" where Knight goes over the key details of the chapter and one called "Going Deeper" where Knight gives recommendations on titles you can pursue if you're intrigued by the highlights he mentioned from the work in that particular chapter. As any bibliophile/teacher book addict can attest, the "Going Deeper" sections are dangerous ground. One could easily go to an on-line bookstore and drop hundreds of bucks one-clicking interesting titles in the interest of "going deep" (Hail Mary, anyone?).

Chapter headings:

1. Impact Schools (an overview of where your school could be but probably isn't)
2. Partnership (the essential elements of gaining critical mass from the majority of personnel by making teachers partners in, not subjects to, carrying out reform... without it, you're going nowhere fast)
3. Principals (the linchpin of any move, principals are called by Knight "first learners" who must walk the talk themselves... otherwise, who's going to follow them?)
4. Instructional Coaching (if you're an IC or hope to be one, here in a nutshell are all the psychological and logistical keys to success... a wonderfully rewarding job that isn't easy and isn't for everyone)
5. Workshops That Make an Impact (what? that speaker I paid big bucks for didn't make an impact? duh....)
6. Intensive Learning Teams (all together now... to the tune of "United We Stand," please...)
7. Partnership Communication (a little self-help here on how to be a "partner" in school... some psychology and science come to the fore as Knight taps expertise on the dynamics of listening, asking good questions, finding common ground, etc.)

Overall, a great starting point for educational professionals who genuinely want to start changing their schools and need a blueprint to do it.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Knight is not just edu-speak  
 By Joe Knight is the "it" name of instructional coaching and educational leadership these days. He has good insights and many of his ideas are highly usable. Many times these types of books are all fuss and no feathers and full of good sounding edu-speak with very limited actual application. Knight is not that at all. His ideas are very useable.  
 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars  
 By James Fernandez Exactly what I need as a first year instructional coach.

A focused approach to school improvement that hits the mark  
 This book simplifies the process for becoming an Impact School through targeted, consistent professional learning that is done with teachers, not to teachers. Award-winning author Jim Knight provides tangible tools for translating staff members' joy of learning into high-leverage practices that achieve dramatic results. Characteristics of Impact Schools include: A focused, clearly defined improvement plan that takes into account the complexity of teaching and learning relationships  
 A school culture that encourages enrollment in ongoing professional development  
 Alignment of purpose and actions among all staff members

"Unmistakable Impact exemplifies everything Jim Knight advocates: a clear focus, respect for educators' significant contributions, and the value that well-designed professional learning contributes to school improvement efforts." (Dennis Sparks, Former Executive Director 2010-08-13)  
 "must read for anyone who cares about learning, this book is from the heart. Knight uses his own experiences to describe processes and strategies for impacting student and adult learning in today's schools." (Sandee Crowther, President 2010-08-17)  
 "Jim Knight's work has had a tremendous impact on the quality of our professional development practices that are job-embedded and meet the REAL needs of our teachers. He is a consummate relationship builder who models how to establish the types of relationships necessary for second-order change to occur." (Carolyn J. Teigland, Associate Superintendent for Education Services 2010-08-17)  
 "Jim Knight outlines a clear path to success for educators to make sense out of the complex nature of external mandates, competing initiatives and prevailing traditional models found within many schools and districts around the nation." (Ken Geisick, Superintendent 2010-09-07)  
 "Unmistakable Impact

takes us deeper into the realm of grounded school improvement?a great contribution to the field." (Michael Fullan, Professor and Author 2010-09-27)"Jim Knight helps us to understand how learning can be infectious, energizing, and humanizing as he eloquently delineates the steps involved in creating an impact school. I suggest buying this book for all principals who want to strengthen their schools. I believe that Unmistakable Impact will be a resource they return to time and again." (Stephanie Hirsh, Executive Director 2010-10-01)"The book introduces the reader to the theoretical framework, strategies, structure and findings from qualitative studies on instructional coaching to explain how partnership learning supports effective instruction and student achievement." (Susan Farber, University of Cincinnati 2012-05-01) "Unmistakable Impact exemplifies everything Jim Knight advocates: a clear focus, respect for educators's significant contributions, and the value that well-designed professional learning contributes to school improvement efforts." (Dennis Sparks, Former Executive Director 2010-08-13)"&nbsp;must read for anyone who cares about learning, this&nbsp;book is from the heart. Knight uses his own experiences to describe processes and strategies for impacting student and adult learning in today's schools." (Santee Crowther, President 2010-08-17)"Jim Knight's work has had a tremendous impact on the quality of our professional development practices that are job-embedded and meet the REAL needs of our teachers. He is a consummate relationship builder who models how to establish the types of relationships necessary for second-order change to occur." (Carolyn J. Teigland, Associate Superintendent for Education Services 2010-08-17)"Jim Knight outlines a clear path to success for educators to make sense out of the complex nature of external mandates, competing initiatives and prevailing traditional models found within many schools and districts around the nation." (Ken Geisick, Superintendent 2010-09-07)"Unmistakable Impact takes us deeper into the realm of grounded school improvement?a great contribution to the field." (Michael Fullan, Professor and Author 2010-09-27)"Jim Knight helps us to understand how learning can be infectious, energizing, and humanizing as he eloquently delineates the steps involved in creating an impact school. I suggest buying this book for all principals who want to strengthen their schools. I believe that Unmistakable Impact will be a resource they return to time and again." (Stephanie Hirsh, Executive Director 2010-10-01)"The book introduces the reader to the theoretical framework, strategies, structure and findings from qualitative studies on instructional coaching to explain how partnership learning supports effective instruction and student achievement." (Susan Farber, University of Cincinnati 2012-05-01)About the AuthorJim Knight is a research associate at the University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning and the president of the Instructional Coaching Group. He has spent more than a decade studying instructional coaching and has written several books on the topic, including Instructional Coaching: A Partnership Approach to Improving Instruction published by Corwin and Learning Forward (2007). Knight co-authored Coaching Classroom Management. He also edited Coaching: Approaches and Perspectives. Knight has authored articles on instructional coaching and school improvement in publications such as The Journal of Staff Development, Principal Leadership, The School Administrator, Kappan, and Teachers Teaching Teachers. Several research projects directed by Knight include an IES-funded qualitative and quantitative assessment of coaching and Pathways to Success, a comprehensive, districtwide school reform project for the Topeka Public School District in Kansas. Knight also leads the coaching institutes and the Annual Instructional Coaching Conference offered by the University of Kansas. Frequently asked to guide professional learning for instructional coaches, Knight has presented and consulted in more than 35 states, most Canadian provinces, and in Japan. He has a PhD in Education and has won several university teaching, innovation, and service awards. He also writes the popular radicallearners.com blog. Now, Jim Knight is offering his expertise in an online professional development opportunity! Visit our Professional Learning page for more information!