

# research in brief

## **Best Teaching Method for Aged?**

How often do you as an adult educator deal with elderly adults? If you find this is often part of your duties, then you've probably wondered which types of instruction are best: visual or auditory, reading with review or without review, etc.

Taub and Kline approached this concern with a series of three experiments. The first experiment used 96 volunteers (89 females, 7 males) with a mean age of 70.7 years and a mean education of 10.4 years. The second experiment used 80 volunteers (73 females, 7 males) with a mean age of 70.5 years and a mean education of 10.4 years. All of the subjects in the second experiment had participated in the first experiment. The third experiment involved 100 volunteers (91 females, 9 males) with a mean age of 70.2 years and a mean education of 10.5 years.

The findings were generally consistent with those of earlier research on younger adults. Whether auditory or visual modality is used, the success tends to be related more to particular presentation conditions than on the modality. It seems appropriate, therefore, to generalize the findings of research on modalities with younger adults to older adults.

"Modality Effects and Memory in the Aged." Harvey A. Taub and Gary E. Kline. *Educational Gerontology*, 1 (January-March, 1976), 53-60.

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