

***NOTE:** These sessions may be presented individually, combined into a multi-session workshop, or adjusted to meet the needs of participants.*

A Pediatrician's Perspective on Learning Problems

Presenter: Dr. Eileen Vautravers

Length: 1 hour

Target audience: Parents, educators, medical professionals

This session will review the physical, emotional and cognitive disorders that influence a child's ability to learn. How can parents and educators recognize these problems? What can parents of a learning disabled child do to help? Learn answers to these questions and more.

Trubl Speling

Presenter: Gwelda Carlson, M.A.

Length: 1 hour

Target audience: Parents

Spelling is a common frustration for many students, especially for those who have trouble reading. Learn helpful ideas for studying spelling and vocabulary and improving scores on those weekly tests. The techniques can also be used for daily spelling skills.

When Problems Surface: Getting Help From Your School

Presenter: Carolyn Brandle, M.Ed.

Length: 1 hour

Target audience: Parents

A special education professional will address how to cope with learning problems. The discussion will include information about identification processes, screening, response-to-intervention programs (RtI), individualized education programs (IEPs) and 504 plans for students with learning problems.

The Connection Between Wellness and Academic Success

Presenters: Gwelda Carlson, M.A.; Carolyn Brandle, M.Ed.; and Eileen Vautravers, M.D.

Length: 1.5 hour

Target audience: Parents, educators, medical professionals

There is a vital connection between a child's medical wellness and academic success. The definition, signs and neurobiology of dyslexia in school-age children will be discussed, along with improved brain processes that result from appropriate, early interventions. Methods for identifying dyslexia through school assessments will be reviewed. Intervention strategies (including response-to-intervention) and ideas for incorporating multi-sensory Orton-Gillingham teaching techniques into the curriculum will be demonstrated.

Getting Ready for Kindergarten

Presenters: Gwelda Carlson, M.A.; Carolyn Brandle, M.Ed.; Eileen Vautravers, M.D., and Shelli Cook, M.S.CCC-SLP

Length: 2 hours

Target audience: Parents, preschool educators

The definition, signs and neurobiology of dyslexia in pre-school children will be discussed, along with improved brain processes that result from appropriate, early interventions. Speech pattern development, milestones, stuttering, and auditory processing are reviewed. Information and activities to increase print awareness, knowledge of the alphabet, phonological awareness, and handwriting skills will be shared.

Reading With Purpose: Developing Comprehension Skills

Presenter: Gwelda Carlson, M.A.

Length: 1 hour

Target audience: Parents and upper elementary, middle and high school educators

To get the most out of reading, students need to read with a purpose. Reading is based on language ability, and comprehension is a learned skill that relies on a student's experiential background and reading level. We'll explore the reciprocal relationship between the growth in vocabulary and improvements in comprehension.

What About the Child Who Can't Read...or Write?

Presenter: Gwelda Carlson, M.A.

Length: 1 hour

Target audience: Elementary, middle and high school educators and parents

They're in every grade level—how will they survive? We'll discuss why this happens and what to do to help the struggling reader. This session also addresses reading difficulties, accommodations, support, and self-advocacy.

Phonemic Awareness: Building Blocks to Phonics

Presenter: Gwelda Carlson, M.A.

Length: 1 hour

Target audience: Preschool and lower elementary educators and parents

We'll discuss what children need to know before phonics instruction, how to layer phonemic awareness on phonics instruction, and hands-on activities to help children hear, segment, and blend sounds. Includes hearing initial and ending sounds, sound boxes, rhyming, word families, counting syllables in words, and counting words in sentences. Techniques to enhance learning through movement and multi-sensory activities will be reviewed.

Adding Multi-Sensory Techniques to Classroom Reading Instruction for Greater Student Success

Presenter: Gwelda Carlson, M.A.; or Carolyn Brandle, M.Ed.

Length: 1 hour

Target audience: Elementary educators

Learn strategies for meeting the needs of struggling readers in general and special education classrooms, along with multi-sensory techniques to add to your district's reading curriculum. We'll discuss realistic interventions that can be implemented in the classroom, and strategies that are appropriate for response-to-intervention groups.

Get Ready! Get Set! Read Better!

Presenter: Gwelda Carlson, M.A.; or Carolyn Brandle, M.Ed.

Length: 1 hour

Target audience: Elementary educators and parents

This session focuses on building phonological awareness, phonetic decoding and encoding skills, and fluency. We'll share practical strategies to implement in classrooms and multi-sensory Orton-Gillingham methods. Review the basics for teaching phonology and decoding/encoding skills, applying syllabication elements, and measuring and building fluency and accuracy in reading.

Using Direct Instruction for Improving the Comprehension of Fiction

Presenter: Peggy Stahr, M.A.

Length: 1 hour or 1 day

Target Audience: K-12 educators, Special Ed, Remedial Reading

Struggling readers need to be directly taught the necessary skills for comprehending fiction. Too many teachers and programs merely test comprehension. This session uses plot charts and other graphic organizers to help elementary through high school students internalize the skills needed to comprehend stories.

Using Direct Instruction for Improving the Comprehension of Non-Fiction

Presenter: Peggy Stahr, M.A.

Length: 1 hour or 1 day

Target Audience: K-12 educators

Struggling readers need to be directly taught the necessary skills for comprehending non-fiction. Many teachers and programs merely test comprehension. This session uses graphic organizers and direct instruction to help elementary through high school students "make the abstract concrete" as they learn to internalize the skills needed to comprehend non-fiction materials.

Using Systematic, Multi-Sensory Techniques for Teaching Phonics and Spelling

Presenter: Peggy Stahr, M.A.

Length: 1 hour or 1 day

Target Audience: K-6 educators, Special Ed, Remedial Reading

All students can learn to read, but some children are not learning to read and write commensurate with their potential because they are not being taught the way they learn best. This session focuses on a basic decoding approach featuring systematic phonics using multi-sensory strategies and direct instruction.

Using Hands-On Grammar Instruction to Improve Student Writing

Presenter: Peggy Stahr, M.A.

Length: 1 hour or 1 day

Target Audience: K-12 Educators, Special Ed, Remedial Reading

Students need to understand the function of words in written language to assist them in expressing their own thoughts through writing. This session shows how to use pictures and symbols for the parts of sentences to help students learn to compose and improve their writing.

For more information or to book a session contact:

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