

Day One

Keynote • 9:00 – 9:30 am

“Small Move, Big Impact! How a Few Simple Techniques Can Dramatically Elevate Our Teaching” – Annemarie Johnson

Join Annemarie for an inspiring, upbeat, and motivating presentation on how to increase second graders’ engagement and make your teaching stick. It’s all the little things we do daily that add up to something really big!

“So happy to have attended this conference. Feeling inspired and ready to support my students in new and more meaningful ways!”

– Allison Stewart, 2nd Grade Teacher

MORNING SESSIONS • 9:40 am – 12:10 pm

Choose **ONE** Full Morning Session OR **TWO** 70-Minute Sessions • *One mid-morning break*

Full Morning Session • 9:40 am – 12:10 pm

A-1: Foundations for Reading Success: Exploring the 5 Pillars of Literacy in Grade 2 – Bola Disu

Unlock the secrets behind what makes reading “click” for second graders. Join Bola to explore the five essential pillars of literacy and how they work together to build confident, fluent, and motivated readers. Walk away with simple, high-impact routines that set up every student for reading success.

**First 70–Minute Morning Sessions
9:40 – 10:50 am**

**Second 70–Minute Morning Sessions
11:00 am – 12:10 pm**

CHOOSE ONE: A-2 or A-3

A-2: SEL: Empowering 2nd Graders With Social-Emotional Skills – Amy Stark

Explore effective strategies for integrating Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) into your second-grade classroom. This session will cover essential techniques to help young students develop self-awareness, manage emotions, build empathy, and strengthen interpersonal skills. Learn how to create a supportive environment that fosters emotional well-being and enhances academic success.

A-3: Making Sense of the Science of Reading – Annemarie Johnson

In this session, we will explore the Science of Reading research from a 10,000-foot view. You will learn both what it IS and what it is NOT and its implications for your second-grade literacy instruction. If you’ve been hearing about the Science of Reading but aren’t quite clear about what it means for you or your school, this session is for you.

CHOOSE ONE: A-4 or A-5

A-4: Daily Number Routines That Provide a Smooth Transition Into Your Math Lesson – Amy Stark

Learn highly effective, classroom-tested number routines that are engaging and accessible for all second graders. Ideas shared are easily adaptable to all second-grade math concepts, as well as with any math curriculum you’re using. You’ll also leave with a better understanding on WHY your math sessions should start with one of these number routines.

A-5: Brain-Friendly Ways to Teach Sight Words – Annemarie Johnson

Learn what brain research says about learning sight words. Annemarie will share reasons why many second graders struggle to learn sight words and what teachers can do about it. Walk away with practical tips for helping all students gain mastery and learn common pitfalls to avoid.

Lunch break • 12:10 – 1:10 pm



“This was a wonderful conference! It contained a lot of great information and content to use in the classroom.”

– Jessie Grine, 2nd Grade Teacher



Team Discount

ONE DAY

One Person: \$325

BOTH DAYS

One Person: \$595

**Team of 3+: \$565 per person
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... “Excellent ideas and resources!” ...

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Day One

AFTERNOON SESSIONS • 1:10 – 3:40 pm

Choose **ONE** Full Afternoon Session OR **TWO** 70-Minute Sessions

One mid-afternoon break

Full Afternoon Session • 1:10 – 3:40 pm

B-1: Enhancing Vocabulary and Language Conventions Through Read-Aloud and Interactive Writing – *Annemarie Johnson*

In this idea-packed session, you will learn innovative ways to increase vocabulary knowledge, solidify language conventions, and inspire your second graders to love writing. Reinforce and assess skills you have taught by using traveling class books. You'll leave this session with exciting ideas you will want to use immediately with your own second graders!

First 70-Minute Afternoon Sessions 1:10 – 2:20 pm

CHOOSE ONE: B-2 or B-3

B-2: Growing Minds: Formative Assessment Strategies for Second Grade Success – *Amy Stark*

Learn impactful ways to easily use formative assessment as an ongoing evaluation to monitor second-graders' learning, provide timely feedback, and adjust instruction to better meet students' needs. We'll explore effective strategies, tools, and best practices to help you enhance student engagement and achievement through continuous assessment.

B-3: Phonemic Awareness: Hearing Words, Building Readers – *Bola Disu*

Did you know that a child's ability to hear and play with sounds predicts later reading success better than almost any other skill? This engaging, interactive session is filled with practical ways to strengthen second-graders' phonemic awareness—helping them identify, segment, and manipulate sounds so decoding and spelling become second nature.

Second 70-Minute Afternoon Sessions 2:30 – 3:40 pm

CHOOSE ONE: B-4 or B-5

B-4: Differentiated Problem Solving Strategies to Use During Small Group and Whole Class Instruction – *Amy Stark*

Discover how to incorporate the ideas of Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI) into your math program to help your second graders expand their intuitive understanding of math concepts to solve and explain problems. You will leave this session with differentiated problems you can immediately use with your second graders, an understanding of how to write your own problems, and strategies for incorporating the principles of CGI into your current math program.

B-5: Phonics: Cracking the Code of Words – *Bola Disu*

Help your students become word detectives! Join Bola to learn powerful, research-based ways to teach phonics so students understand spelling patterns, syllables, and word families. You'll discover interactive routines that make decoding multi-syllabic words feel like solving a puzzle—turning struggling second grade readers into confident, independent ones.

Day Two

MORNING SESSIONS • 9:00 – 11:40 am

Choose **ONE** Full Morning Session OR **TWO** 75-Minute Sessions
One mid-morning break

Full Morning Session • 9:00 – 11:40 am

C-1: Building Thinking Classrooms to Increase Students' Math Success – *Amy Stark*

Explore powerful methods to incorporate Building Thinking Classrooms into your second-grade math program. Gain insights into essential steps and proven strategies to structure and enhance opportunities for students to practice and deepen their understanding of key math skills. Access free, classroom-tested resources designed to complement and enrich your existing curriculum.

First 75-Minute Morning Sessions 9:00 – 10:15 am

CHOOSE ONE: C-2 or C-3

C-2: Using Read-Alouds to Accelerate Your Second-Graders' Comprehension Skills and Increase Reading Motivation

– *Annemarie Johnson*

Looking for ways to improve reading comprehension and expose your second graders to more complex texts? Look no further than your next read-aloud. Discover how you can take your read-alouds to the next level. Learn simple but high-impact techniques for read-aloud rituals and accountable talk that can boost both student motivation and achievement.

C-3: Reading With Confidence and Expression – *Bola Disu*

What does it take for a reader to sound truly fluent? This session explores how to help second graders read with smoothness, accuracy, and expression while deepening their comprehension. You'll learn engaging approaches—like guided oral reading and performance-based fluency activities—that bring stories to life and help students read with joy and confidence.

Second 75-Minute Morning Sessions 10:25 – 11:40 am

CHOOSE ONE: C-4 or C-5

C-4: Phonological Awareness: The Foundation for All Readers and a Missing Link for Most Readers With Dyslexia

– *Annemarie Johnson*

In this session, we will explore what phonological awareness is, why it is important for all second-grade readers, and why it is critical for children who may have dyslexia. You will also learn which phonological awareness skills matter most. You will leave with a menu of engaging instructional methods and routines that can be woven into your school day, regardless of the reading program you use.

C-5: Vocabulary: Growing Word Knowledge for Understanding – *Bola Disu*

Strong vocabulary is the bridge to strong comprehension. Discover practical, student-centered ways to make word learning stick! Bola shares strategies for choosing powerful words to teach, connecting meanings to context and morphology, and creating a classroom culture where curiosity about words thrives.

Comprehensive Digital Resource Handbook

You will receive an extensive digital resource handbook, specifically designed for this conference. Included in the handbook are resource materials for ALL conference sessions, even those you don't attend. These materials include:

- Teaching strategies and activities for teaching second-grade reading and math skills and more!
- Assessment techniques, samples and tools perfect for second-grade students
- Dozens of tools and strategies for math, reading, sight words, and more!

"Thank you for sharing an incredibly helpful collection of great ideas! It will take time to digest all the goodness here, but I can implement several ideas right away."

– Kathy Bailey, 2nd Grade Teacher



Lunch Break • 11:40 am – 12:40 pm

On-Site Training

Conferences like this one along with many other topics can be brought to your school or district. Please view all of our On-Site PD options at www.ber.org/onsite or call 877-857-8964 to speak with an On-Site Training PD Consultant.



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Day Two

AFTERNOON SESSIONS • 12:40 – 3:20 pm

Choose **TWO** 75-Minute Afternoon Sessions
One mid-afternoon break

First 75-Minute Afternoon Sessions 12:40 – 1:55 pm

CHOOSE ONE: D-1, D-2 or D-3

D-1: Comprehension: Making Meaning From Text – *Bola Disu*

How do we help second graders move from “word callers” to true thinkers? This session focuses on evidence-based strategies—like questioning, summarizing, and visualizing—that turn reading into meaning-making. You'll also see how comprehension connects seamlessly with phonics and vocabulary for deeper understanding.

D-2: Using High-Leverage Phonics Routines to Strengthen Your Small Group Reading Instruction – *Annemarie Johnson*

Discover ways to support your second-grade readers' foundational skills during small group instruction. Walk away with high-leverage, rinse-and-repeat routines to differentiate instructions for all readers in your class. These routines can support your whole class instruction, regardless of your curriculum.

D-3: Bridging the Gap: Integrating Science of Reading With Reading Workshop – *Amy Stark*

Learn how to seamlessly integrate the Science of Reading with Reading Workshop in your second-grade classroom. This session will provide practical strategies to combine evidence-based reading instruction with the flexibility of Reading Workshop, helping second graders develop strong foundational skills while fostering a love for reading and independent learning.

Second 75-Minute Afternoon Sessions 2:05 – 3:20 pm

CHOOSE ONE: D-4, D-5 or D-6

D-4: Putting It Into Practice: Unifying Reading Instruction for Greater Impact – *Bola Disu*

Bring it all together! Join Bola in this dynamic, interactive session to explore how the five pillars—phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension—interlock to accelerate second-graders' reading growth. Walk away with integrated routines and classroom examples that make balanced literacy instruction both doable and powerful.

D-5: Practical Fluency-Boosting Strategies to Strengthen Your Second-Grade Reading Instruction – *Annemarie Johnson*

Gather a wealth of classroom-tested, fluency-boosting strategies and step-by-step instructions for powerful fluency development lessons. Learn how to effectively model fluency and scaffold fluency growth for developing readers. Move from phonics to fluency to comprehension.

D-6: Innovative Independent Math Game and STEM Activities – *Amy Stark*

Learn multiple ways to strengthen your math instruction using centers that reinforce the content taught during whole and small group instruction. Discover dozens of valuable ideas for creating more meaning and interest in independent math activities using games and STEM challenges. Ideas shared are easy to incorporate, cost little or nothing AND are motivating for your second-grade students.