

# Day One

**Keynote • 9:00 – 9:30 AM**

## **“Sit It Out or Dance? Finding Your Rhythm as a Kindergarten Teacher in a New Era” – Angela Searcy**

Teaching Kindergarten today can feel unlike anything we were trained to do. The expectations feel higher, children seem to be carrying bigger feelings, and the pace rarely slows down. In our quiet moments, we sometimes wonder: do I keep pushing forward, or sit this one out? In this inspiring keynote, Angela gives voice to what we are all experiencing and reframes it through music and movement—helping us find our rhythm in Kindergarten!

## **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: Engage and Empower Your Kindergarten Students with Interactive Writing Strategies** – Matt Halpern

Interactive Writing is one of the most powerful tools we have as Kindergarten teachers to lift the level of writing in our classrooms. Matt will help demystify this practice and give you tips and tools to make it a part of regular practice for young learners across all areas of the school day. You'll see examples from real Kindergarten classrooms and learn how to have more fun while engaging and empowering your students toward writing independence.

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

#### **CHOOSE ONE: A-2 or A-3**

### **A-2: Play, Hooray! Evidence-Based Strategies to Develop Play Skills** – Anissa Moore

Play is the foundation for learning in the Kindergarten classroom. Play-based learning nurtures curiosity, creativity, and collaboration—skills essential for school readiness and lifelong learning. In this engaging session, you'll learn how to intentionally teach play skills—such as turn-taking, pretend play, problem solving, and peer interaction—using visuals, modeling, and structured supports embedded within daily classroom routines. Anissa will also highlight how play can be differentiated to meet diverse learner needs while increasing student independence and engagement.

### **A-3: Elevating Equity with Culturally Relevant Literature for Kindergarten** – Angela Searcy

We strive to include all Kindergartners and celebrate everyone! Sounds great, but how do you do it? During this session, we will explore award-winning titles that provide mirrors into the experiences of the diverse Kindergartners in our classroom, offer windows into the lives of others and sliding glass doors through engaging literacy activities that allow children to enter into new experiences. Discover how to “link” reading comprehension, fluency, vocabulary, and other essential skills for Kindergarten learners.

**Second 70–Minute Morning Sessions**  
11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

#### **CHOOSE ONE: A-4 or A-5**

### **A-4: Math Magic! Hands-On Fun for Little Learners** – Anissa Moore

When children count, sort, build, and measure, they develop number sense and problem-solving skills that support future academic success. By incorporating hands-on experiences with manipulatives and movements during math lessons, you can turn abstract concepts into meaningful discoveries for students. Learn practical strategies for teaching counting, patterns, shapes, sorting, and measurement through engaging games, songs, and learning centers that can motivate students to find the magic of math!

### **A-5: Lead Your Kindergarten Classroom in Better Social and Academic Directions** – Angela Searcy

It is more important than ever to create more peaceful environments where all our Kindergarten students feel a sense of connection. Discover the important correlations between positive pro-social behavior, positive learning environments and higher academic achievement. Learn classroom-tested examples of how to create learning spaces where every student feels more welcome and included! Get “use it tomorrow” resources for Kindergarten classroom set-up, making home-school connections, and much more!

**Lunch break • 12:10 – 1:10 PM**

*“Great conference with lots of great ways to better ourselves and our classrooms!”*

– Kristin Handy,  
Kindergarten Teacher



*“This was a great conference and I will definitely recommend this to any and all Kindergarten teachers that I know! I will also recommend these presenters and will be looking for other courses offered by them!”*

– Courtney Richardson,  
PreK-First Grade Teacher

### **Team Discount**

**ONE DAY**  
One Person: \$325

**BOTH DAYS**  
One Person: \$595

**Team of 3+: \$565 per person  
when enrolled at the  
same time**

*“Love that this conference is dedicated to KINDERGARTEN teachers. Two days specifically for us!”*

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### Can't Attend? Online Professional Development Options:

#### Related Online Courses

Two related On-Demand Video-Based Online Learning courses, *Purposeful Play to Increase Students' Academic Learning and Social-Emotional Growth*, for Grades PK-K, and *Increase All Your Students' Learning with Practical, Timesaving Work Stations*, for Grades PK-K, are available for immediate registration. To enroll, visit [www.ber.org/online](http://www.ber.org/online)

# 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: I CAN do it! Self-Determination Skills to Help Kinders Drive Their Own C.A.R.**

– *Anissa Moore*

Self-determination is foundational for motivation, independence, and meaningful relationships in young learners. In this half-day session, educators will explore how teaching competence (C), autonomy (A), and relatedness (R) in Kindergarten helps children problem-solve, self-advocate, and regulate emotions during challenging moments. This interactive session helps you break down self-determination skills into teachable moments— supporting students as they make choices, solve problems, and navigate frustration so they can learn to drive their own C.A.R.! You will leave with concrete tools, activities, and routines you can immediately implement to build independence, motivation, and positive peer relationships.

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

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

#### **CHOOSE ONE: B-2 or B-3**

##### **B-2: An Introduction to the Science of Reading** – *Matt Halpern*

There is so much talk lately about the science behind the way our brains grow and learn. Join Matt as he breaks down the latest research, why it's important, and what are some simple ways we can shift what we're already doing to incorporate this research into our teaching. Filled with practical ideas, tips, and strategies you can take right back to your classroom, this presentation is one you won't want to miss!

##### **B-3: Make Reading More Multisensory and Meaningful for Your Kindergarteners!**

– *Angela Searcy*

Make an /s/ sound. What does your tongue do? Are you making puff of air or stream of air when you create the sound? The /s/ sound is the first sound in *snake* but also in the word *center*! How can we teach children rules for phonemic awareness when there appears to be no logic? This session will review the physical characteristics phonemes and kinesthetic feedback needed to understand sounds within words. What are the important questions that stimulate mental imagery essential critical thinking? Let's explore the connection between word structure and reading comprehension in meaningful, multisensory ways!

#### **CHOOSE ONE: B-4 or B-5**

##### **B-4: Teaching a Growth Mindset to Transform Your Classroom Community** – *Matt Halpern*

Instill in your Kindergarten students a growth mindset! Matt gives you tips for introducing the vocabulary and themes of optimism, flexibility, persistence, resilience, and empathy through children's literature, videos, and activities just right for Kindergarteners. He'll then show you how you can deepen and extend this work through interactive writing, storytelling, and regular reflection. Motivate your Kindergarten students to use growth mindset vocabulary with each other, their families, and you, and everyone will reap the benefits of their growth-oriented thinking.

##### **B-5: "They Don't Act Like That at Home" ... Tools for Collaborating Effectively with Kindergarten Families** – *Angela Searcy*

Why is the school newsletter at the bottom of that bookbag? Learn better ways to approach difficult situations that arise when dealing with families, how to communicate with them more effectively, and what to do when family members are simply unable to help you address their child's behavior or academic challenges. Learn practical strategies you can try tomorrow to build more positive, collaborative, and supportive family relationships that help create an environment where your Kindergarteners will thrive!

# 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: Planning Ahead for Those Challenging Behaviors in Kindergarten** – *Angela Searcy*

Ever wish you had a guide to more effective planning for challenging behaviors in Kindergarten? Leave this session with highly effective, practical, and functional tools designed for Kindergarten. We will outline each phase of the process and what to do when “nothing is working,” as well as tools that support a continuous cycle of each step. Leave with a practical understanding of all six steps to being prepared when challenging behavior occurs in Kindergarten.

#### First 75–Minute Morning Sessions 9:00 – 10:15 AM

#### **CHOOSE ONE: C-2 or C-3**

##### **C-2: Routines and Procedures to Make Your Kindergarten Classroom Shine**

– *Matt Halpern*

Kindergarteners thrive on routine and clear expectations. Join Matt as he walks you through what routines and procedures you need in your Kindergarten classroom, how to teach and practice them, and finally, how to be more responsive to issues that may pop up throughout the year. You’ll leave ready to get your kinder classroom running like a well-oiled machine.

##### **C-3: Simon Says... Think! Teaching Brain-Based Executive Functioning Strategies**

– *Anissa Moore*

Executive functioning skills— such as working memory, self-control, attention, and cognitive flexibility— are critical for helping young learners follow routines, manage emotions, and engage successfully in learning. By identifying early executive functioning challenges, you can embed brain-based, play-centered strategies into daily classroom routines. You’ll explore practical activities, visuals, and games that strengthen focus, flexibility, and self-regulation while increasing independence and positive classroom behavior.

#### Second 75–Minute Morning Sessions 10:25 – 11:40 AM

#### **CHOOSE ONE: C-4 or C-5**

##### **C-4: Vocabulary Rocks!** – *Matt Halpern*

A rich vocabulary is one of the foundational components of successful literacy learning. Deepening children’s vocabulary is critical to helping them read, write, and talk about ideas. How can we plan for vocabulary instruction across the Kindergarten day? What are the best ways to maximize vocabulary learning within the framework of what we’re already doing? Join Matt for some tips, strategies, and fun ways to grow your Kindergarteners’ vocabulary.

##### **C-5: I Need a Break! Guiding Students From Co-Regulation to Self-Regulation**

– *Anissa Moore*

When our Kinders get upset, they may communicate their emotions through challenging behaviors. Many times, children haven’t been directly taught coping strategies or how to “calm down” when they are getting frustrated, angry, or overwhelmed. This session will empower you with tips and tools on teaching self-regulation strategies, including do’s and don’ts of “break time,” concrete examples of mindfulness activities, and visually-based activities and strategies to support tolerance and social-emotional awareness.

## 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:

- Model lessons and activities
- Math, literacy, writing, and STEAM
- Ready-to-use Kindergarten resources and materials
- The best, most current Kindergarten ideas and strategies



*“These presentations were very well prepared and provided tons of resources practical for the classroom.”*

– Cheryl Crump, Kindergarten Teacher



### Lunch Break • 11:40 AM – 12:40 PM

*“The enthusiasm was palpable and re-energized me for the new school year!”*

# 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**

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

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

#### **D-1: Tips and Tools for Better Relationships with Kindergartners From Day One!**

– *Matt Halpern*

Building relationships with Kindergarten students isn't simply a way to make our jobs as teachers more rewarding and fun. Teacher-student relationships are one of the biggest indicators of academic success. Matt's ideas and activities for building and deepening relationships with Kindergarten students are straight from his own classroom. They are engaging. They empower children to be their best. And they'll bring joy to any classroom— including yours!

#### **D-2: Let's Chat! Using ChatGPT to Enhance Your Productivity as a Kindergarten Teacher**

– *Anissa Moore*

Planning engaging lessons and activities for Kindergarten can be time-consuming, especially when creativity runs low. This session will introduce you to easy, practical ways ChatGPT can be used as a brainstorming and productivity tool to generate lesson ideas, play-based activities, and differentiated supports for young learners. Participants will see real examples of how AI can enhance teacher creativity, save planning time, and support developmentally appropriate instruction— while keeping YOU firmly in control of your own gifts and expertise.

#### **D-3: It's Time to GLOW Up! Creating a Positive Growth Mindset in Your Kindergarten Classroom** – *Angela Searcy*

Behavior is like a bike— a tandem bike! Student behavior works in tandem with adult behavior, and you can't influence one without impacting the other. When adults believe students can learn, even when they lack the foundational skills necessary for success, the students realize effort can accelerate them to new levels. Come listen to children's literature as well as practical strategies to help your students achieve new levels of learning.

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

#### **D-4: Tackling Tricky Kindergarten Behavior Problems with Empathy and Kindness**

– *Matt Halpern*

Even with the best relationships and classroom management, 'tricky' behavior problems will arise in Kindergarten. Join Matt as he walks you through scenarios and strategies to help you help your students when they are experiencing challenging behaviors. Matt will guide you through steps to help Kindergartners with empathy and kindness. You will leave with many ideas in hand to help you feel ready to tackle obstacles as they arise in your Kindergarten classroom.

#### **D-5: Eyes On Me! Attention-Getters and Transition Tricks That Actually Work**

– *Anissa Moore*

Smooth transitions don't happen by chance— they are taught. This session explores how intentionally teaching attention skills, rotating cues and attention grabbers, and pairing songs with visual supports can reduce transition struggles and increase student responsiveness. You will acquire practical strategies for using visuals, schedules, and transition timers to support receptive language and help students successfully move from preferred to less-preferred activities with greater independence and confidence.

#### **D-6: Supporting the Unique Needs of Gen "C" Kindergartners** – *Angela Searcy*

Just because the pandemic is over doesn't mean its influence is long gone. "Generation C" refers to the coronavirus pandemic's lingering impact on the children in our Kindergarten classrooms. Explore researched-based and classroom-tested strategies to more effectively support Kindergartners who have experienced environmental traumas. Learn how to apply these strategies to your classroom for immediate and long-term impact.

## 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](http://www.ber.org/onsite) or call 877-857-8964 to speak with an On-Site Training PD Consultant.



## ABOUT BER CONFERENCES

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