

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 the engagement of your First and Second Graders and make your teaching stick. It’s all the little things we do daily that add up to something really big!

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: Writing Workshop Seeds for Success – Karen Krey

The first few days of a Writing Workshop are critical, setting the groundwork for how the class will function throughout the entire year. Join Karen in this fast-paced, collaborative session that provides easy starting points and must have tools to enhance any writing workshop model through implementation of a unique 4-day lesson plan. Generate excitement and build the routines that are most necessary, discarding old habits that haven’t been beneficial. Through the use of ready-to-implement techniques, strategies, and mentor texts by real authors, Karen will help you “sow the seeds” of your budding writers by building confidence and structures for success from the very start. All ideas are perfect for grades 1-2.

**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: Increase Students’ Phonics, Sight Word and Vocabulary Skills ... Practical, Ready-to-Use Word Study Activities Just for First and Second Graders

– *Mary Peterson*

Increase phonics skills, sight word recognition, and vocabulary knowledge through these highly motivational games and activities ready for immediate use with your first and second grade students. You will leave with a wealth of great ideas and fun, engaging ways to greatly increase the number of words your students can read, understand the meaning of, and use in their own writing!

A-3: Using Reading Assessments to Drive Instruction in Your First and Second Grade Classroom – Annemarie Johnson

Make the most of your reading assessments to boost students’ skills in the specific areas they need. Look at a variety of assessment tools, ways to analyze data and how to best use that data to make better instructional decisions. Practical ideas you can use immediately for all levels of readers.

CHOOSE ONE: A-4 or A-5

A-4: Guided Math that Works! Practical Strategies Perfect for First and Second Grade Classrooms – Mary Peterson

Learn how to organize differentiated guided math groups based on continuous assessment and discover practical ideas for carefully planning small group, just-right math lessons to meet the needs of the diverse learners in your classroom. Receive practical and time saving management techniques to keep the rest of the class productive and engaged while you teach guided math groups.

A-5: Classroom-Proven Spelling Strategies that Work! – Annemarie Johnson

In this strategy-packed, interactive session you will learn how to assess your students’ developmental spelling levels and build an outstanding spelling program that strengthens all of your first and second graders’ spelling skills. Practical and research-based spelling strategies that work!

“A great conference that has me excited to use these strategies in class. All of the information presented was valuable.”

– Nicole O.,
1st Grade Teacher



“I would definitely recommend this conference to others!”

– Anne Lyon,
1st Grade Teacher



Team Discount

ONE DAY

One Person: \$289

BOTH DAYS

One person: \$469

**Team of 3+: \$489 per person
when enrolled at the
same time**

Lunch break • 12:10 – 1:10 pm

... *“Today was wonderful - so many great strategies!”* ...

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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: Re-Thinking Small Group Guided Reading Instruction – *Annemarie Johnson*

Join Annemarie and look at a new way to be sure your small group guided reading instruction is having the greatest impact on student growth. This session will give you additional ways to differentiate, new ideas for flexible grouping and a menu of small group options that focus on specific skills first and second graders need. Leverage your small group instruction time by targeting exactly what students need to move their reading to the next level.

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

CHOOSE ONE: B-2 or B-3

B-2: Innovative Writing Ideas for Igniting and Motivating Your First and Second Grade Writers – *Mary Peterson*

In this highly practical session, you will learn classroom-proven writing strategies to help all your students be successful with narrative, opinion, and informative writing projects. You will receive effective management techniques, guided writing lessons, publishing ideas and a wealth of result-producing and motivating writing activities.

B-3: Building Confidence and Increasing Opportunity for More Meaningful Student-Centered Conversations

– *Karen Krey*

Is the struggle to promote “less teacher talk” and “more student talk” something you can relate to? Join Karen for easy-to-implement, realistic strategies that are proven to increase meaningful, productive talk among your 1st and 2nd grade students. During this session, we will identify key components of Accountable Talk and analyze its features for our students and our classrooms. You won't want to miss this session filled with easy and ready-to-use ideas that will engage your 1st and 2nd graders in academic conversations, giving YOU more time to “listen” as they “lead.”

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

CHOOSE ONE: B-4 or B-5

B-4: Strengthen Your Reading Instruction with the Very Best, Current Strategies for Teaching First and Second Graders to Read and Understand Literature and Informational Text – *Mary Peterson*

Come and learn the newest, most explicit strategies to greatly increase your students' comprehension skills. Several engaging literature and information books with accompanying focus lessons for comprehension based on your reading standards for first and second grade students will be shared. You won't want to miss this opportunity to gain a wealth of ideas guaranteed to help your students become motivated, proficient and independent readers!

B-5: Independent Reading; Yes, We CAN!

– *Karen Krey*

Ramp up the enthusiasm around Independent Reading with practical strategies, creative ideas, and ready resources. Matching students with reading materials that interest and engage them is critical. Build a strong foundation that ends with a shout of “Yes, We CAN” to Independent Reading in YOUR classroom.



Online Learning

BER offers educators a wide range of online courses that are affordable, fun, fast, and convenient. BER is now offering On Demand Video-Based courses. You may earn optional graduate-level credits for most courses. See the catalog of available courses at www.ber.org/online

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: Practical Strategies to Strengthen Your GUIDED READING GROUPS and LITERACY CENTERS for First and Second Grade Classrooms – Mary Peterson

Receive proven classroom strategies to organize, manage and differentiate flexible guided reading groups to better meet the needs of all your students – from the struggling to the highly capable. You will also receive a wealth of effective ideas for creating and managing timesaving and motivating literacy learning centers that reinforce the skills and concepts your students need to practice while you work with guided reading groups.

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

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

CHOOSE ONE: C-2 or C-3

C-2: Sight Words Made Simple – Annemarie Johnson

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

C-3: FREE, Easy-to-Use, Powerful Assessment – Preparing Readers for Success – Karen Krey

Flexible, diagnostic, informal – all describe the Phonological Awareness Skills Test (PAST) developed by Kansas University. Experience the PAST, ready to administer next week, along with ready-to-use practice items aligned to building phonological skills. Diagnose gaps and needs in less than 15 minutes to determine if students are ready for next steps – phonics and reading. Join Karen to see and experience first-hand how this free, easy-to-use, and powerful assessment tool will make a difference in student success.

CHOOSE ONE: C-4 or C-5

C-4: Practical Strategies to Strengthen Students’ Opinion, Informational and Narrative Writing – Annemarie Johnson

Elevate your writing instruction to improve students’ writing! You will leave this fast-paced session with a deeper understanding of the qualities of good writing along with practical strategies to bring back to your first or second grade classroom. Conferencing tools and tips will also be given.

C-5: Decipher Informational Text and Discover Dozens of Ways to Create Minds-on, Hands-on Learning Experiences for Your First and Second Graders – Karen Krey

It’s easy to search for activities related to informational text but what really works? Join Karen to learn how to better integrate informational text. This hands-on session designed for learning centers with partners or small groups of students will show you how to create minds-on, hands-on learning without worksheets! So easy to create and implement while stretching your students to use rigorous thinking as they process informational texts aligned to any subject area.

Lunch Break • 11:40 am – 12:40 pm

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 first and second grade reading and writing skills
- Assessment techniques, samples and tools perfect for first and second grade students
- Tips, tools, and strategies for writing, math, reading, and spelling

*“So many fun ideas!
I cannot wait to use
these activities!”*

– Stephanie Coupland,
2nd Grade Teacher



... *“I am leaving with a full mind and lots to do!”* ...

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: Engaging Math Centers Perfect for Students in First and Second Grade
– *Mary Peterson*

In this engaging session, Mary will share how to plan and organize just-right math centers which will provide your students with meaningful, independent practice based on the standards, curriculum objectives and students' needs. Be prepared to view, create and play a variety of super fun, easy-to-implement games and activities to use in your grades one and two math centers which your students will absolutely love!

D-2: Practical Fluency-Boosting Strategies to Strengthen Your First and 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 the fluency growth for struggling first and second grade readers.

D-3: Critical Thinking Through Interactive Read Aloud Texts
– *Karen Krey*

Promote higher levels of thinking and text discussion during shared reading through careful planning of interactive read aloud texts. Join Karen to walk through an engaging, rich strategy for creating read aloud plans guaranteed to touch every level of the Revised Bloom's Taxonomy. Network with colleagues as you 'make and take' a lesson ready to implement with students next week!

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

D-4: Highly Effective and Engaging Strategies for Increasing Reading Fluency – *Mary Peterson*

Fluency is one of the critical building blocks of reading, as fluent reading is directly related to comprehension. Acquire a wealth of highly effective strategies to help your students read with speed, accuracy and appropriate expression. Dramatically increase your students' reading fluency and confidence with these highly motivating and engaging activities.

D-5: Using Read Alouds to Accelerate Your First and Second Graders' Reading Skills – *Annemarie Johnson*

What's one thing we have research to prove works to accelerate reading skills in students? Reading 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 especially for striving first and second grade readers.

D-6: Table to Center – Connect the Learning in Relevant Ways – *Karen Krey*

Don't miss this session as Karen shares simple and effective ideas for taking leveled texts from the guided reading table directly into work center practice and extension. You and your young learners will love these practical, engaging, relevant, and low-prep connections.

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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