



GETTING STARTED EARLY: MAPPING THE ROAD TO LITERACY

Session Titles and Descriptions

DAY 1: WEDNESDAY

Getting Kids on the Right Track to Literacy Success

Featured Speaker: Barbara A. Wilson, M.Ed.

In this session, Barbara will discuss the importance of the thoughtful selection of texts for varied tasks during literacy instruction. This will include an overview of readable vs. decodable texts and the importance of enriched text for building vocabulary and knowledge. She will also provide an overview of tiered instruction with a focus on intervention. This session lays the foundation for the rest of the day.

Beyond “The End” in Read-Alouds: Building Vocabulary and Supporting Oral Language Development

Featured Speaker: Christie L. Cavanaugh, Ph.D.

Reading aloud to students should continue to be a robust, well-planned activity to facilitate language and literacy development. The impact of this activity continues beyond “The End” when teachers purposefully plan to embed vocabulary and language models throughout the day. Simple planning and follow-through are crucial for the integration of vocabulary for overall oral language growth beyond the isolated read-aloud activity. This method ensures students have multiple opportunities to hear adults using new words frequently to support listening and reading comprehension and use them for speaking and writing. This session will: 1) review how to select books purposefully, 2) explain strategies to support oral language development, and 3) provide guidance for planning what happens “beyond” the read-aloud to ensure that benefits are maximized.

The Track to Targeted Intervention: An Introduction to Fun in Focus

Presenter(s): Wilson Conference Presentation Team

Fundations® in Tier 2 just got a whole lot easier to implement! Learn how a structured intervention lesson aligned to Tier 1 instruction can make all the difference for those students who need additional practice. Data analysis, appropriate grouping, and intentional planning can set the stage for success. This session will also explore the MTSS/RTI frameworks and the “why” behind the practice and assessment features of Fun in Focus™.

FUNDATIONS® CONFERENCE 2024

Orientation to Fun in Focus

Presenter(s): Wilson Conference Presentation Team

Fun in Focus: The Foundations® Tier 2 Intervention Kit is for teachers supporting students who receive Foundations in Tier 1 and also need small-group targeted support. This session will provide an opportunity for teachers to become familiar with the Fun in Focus lessons and materials.

If you are familiar with Foundations' previous targeted instruction resources, you will love the streamlined lesson planning and instruction of Fun in Focus™ without sacrificing the focus on meaningful practice and fluency. If you are just beginning with Foundations' targeted instruction, you will appreciate the practical layout that leaves you more time for intentional planning and delivery to students who struggle to reach mastery.

Unpacking the Impact: Exploring the Connections of Language, Literacy, and Socioeconomic Status in Education

Featured Speaker: Eliza Thompson, M.S., Ed.S.

How do various early experiences and factors such as caregiver interactions, access to high-quality education, healthcare, and socioeconomic status impact and influence children's brain development? As a practicing speech-language pathologist and clinical professor, Eliza will highlight language and communication experiences in growing children and social-emotional contexts, including the broader clinical implications of her current research related to the role of early experiences in shaping neurocognitive development.



DAY 2: THURSDAY

The Forgotten Skills of Spelling and Handwriting: Charting a Plan for Student Success

Featured Speaker: Dee Rosenberg, M.A., LDT-C, W.C.T., W.D.T.

Educators and researchers have long known that the transcription skills of handwriting and spelling are critical to the development of literacy skills. Spelling reinforces reading by making written language more transparent; handwriting assists with storage and retrieval, among other benefits. Once considered important, these transcription skills are now often pushed aside, deemed irrelevant to 21st century skills. This presentation will explain the scientific research that supports the value of continued, explicit instruction in spelling and handwriting and provide evidence-based practices for the integration of these into the structured literacy lesson.

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Key Considerations When Teaching Foundations to Students Who Speak African American Vernacular English (AAVE)

Featured Speakers: Jermal L. Riggins, M.Ed. and Candice McCarty, M.S.Ed., Ed.S., W.D.P.

This session will provide educators with an overview of essential knowledge about African American Vernacular English (AAVE) as it relates to Foundations implementation and early literacy development. This session will explore the history of AAVE, including its features and use in school settings. Gleaning from research and practical experiences, this session will also examine key considerations that must be made when facilitating Foundations lessons with students who speak AAVE.

Take a Tour! Foundations Readers

Presenter(s): Wilson Conference Presentation Team

Foundations® Readers are a set of beautifully illustrated readers with 95%+ decodability aligned to the Foundations scope & sequence and grade-level curriculum themes. Join us for a behind the scenes look at how these specialized texts are created, take a tour of the Foundations Readers for Levels K and 1, and talk through implementation suggestions for how to get the most out of these in both Tier 1 and Tier 2 settings.

Takeoff with FUN Updates

Presenter(s): Wilson Conference Presentation Team

Takeoff and launch your new school year with all the tools Foundations® has to offer. Bring your own device (BYOD) for a hands-on journey into the world of FUN updates, including FUN HUB® Practice for students and the Unit Test Tracker. Also, learn about the plans for integration with Clever.

Foundations® Five-in-Five Teacher Slam

Presenter(s): Contest Winners

Back by popular demand, the Five-in-Five Teacher Slam will showcase the creative ideas of this year's winners. In five minutes, each of the five winners will present their five slides that answer the question: "What are some 'fun' ways that you involve families in their student's Foundations learning?"