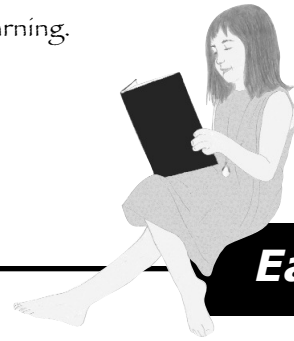


Lee Pesky Learning Center

The Educator



Lee Pesky Learning Center is committed to providing Idaho educators with professional development services of the highest quality. The Educator, published three times a year, addresses educational issues and needs pertinent to fostering student learning.



Early Literacy

Fall 2009
Vol. 4

The *Idaho Early Literacy Project* was started by Lee Pesky Learning Center in 2005 with the goal of preparing Idaho's children for success. Thanks to federal funding sponsored by Congressman Simpson, and the support of early childhood organizations and school districts around the state, together we are improving Idaho's literacy instruction for its youngest citizens.

10 Things You Should Know About the Idaho Early Literacy Project!

1 Idaho's children deserve the best start possible as they begin their school careers! In addition, Idaho's early educators deserve to have access to the best professional development opportunities available.

2 Lee Pesky Learning Center is offering *BUILDING BLOCKS FOR LITERACY*® courses at no charge to early childhood educators around the state during the 2009-2010 school year. Teachers attending these trainings receive important information about shared book reading, phonological awareness, language development, literacy research, speech to print connections, and assessment. In addition, they receive valuable materials including a training binder, alphabet cards, a pocket chart, our *Every Child Ready to Read* booklet, our *Every Child Ready for Math* booklet, literacy games, and children's books. The classes are offered in a two-part, two-day format. IdahoSTARS credit and college credit is available.



References and Recommended Reading

Eager to Learn: Educating our Preschoolers. 2001. National Research Council, National Academy Press
 Best Practices in Literacy Instruction, edited by L. Gambrell, L. Morrow, S. Neuman, M. Pressley. 1999. The Guildford Press
 Handbook of Early Literacy Research, Volume 1, edited by D. Dickinson, S. Neuman. 2001. New Guildford Press
 Handbook of Early Literacy Research, Volume 2, edited by D. Dickinson, S. Neuman. 2006 New Guildford Press

- 3** The *BUILDING BLOCKS FOR LITERACY*® online course is also available for parents and educators at no cost. This resource can be accessed by going to www.LPLearningCenter.org and clicking on "Early Literacy." It is an important resource for anyone interested in early literacy development. If you take the online course and complete a survey, we will send you a free copy of our *Every Child Ready to Read* booklet. Simply contact Cristianne Lane, Project Manager for the *Idaho Early Literacy Project*, at clane@LPLearningCenter.org.
- 4** Did you know that the majority of reading problems can be prevented in preschool and the early grades¹? Together we can close the gap BEFORE children enter kindergarten! In 2008, the National Early Literacy Panel published its report listing the strongest predictors of reading achievement to include: phonological awareness, alphabet knowledge, writing, and rapid automatic naming. These predictors are addressed in the *BUILDING BLOCKS FOR LITERACY*® courses.
- 5** This training was developed by our partners at the Stern Center for Language and Learning. Lee Pesky Learning Center is proud to bring this valuable resource to Idaho along with additional onsite and website support. The course is continuously updated with the latest research on literacy development.
- 6** Over 300 early childhood educators in Idaho received this training during the 2008-2009 school year and the feedback was tremendous. Teachers came from all over the state to attend one of eight trainings offered last year in the Treasure Valley. Thanks to an additional congressional appropriation, we are now able to offer these trainings statewide. During the 2009-2010 school year, *BUILDING BLOCKS FOR LITERACY*® courses will be available in Idaho Falls, Twin Falls, Pocatello, Lewiston, Post Falls, and Boise. The *Idaho Early Literacy Project* has received incredible support from numerous school districts, Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children, IdahoSTARS, Head Start, the State Department of Education, YMCA, libraries, and many other organizations advocating for professional development in literacy.
- 7** Over 10 years of research support the effectiveness of this training. We have impressive results right here in Idaho! Last year we compared the growth of children whose teachers had *BUILDING BLOCKS FOR LITERACY*® training to those children of teachers who did not receive the training. We found significant results when the classrooms were otherwise similar. We also saw significant knowledge gains in literacy instruction when we post-tested teachers who took the course.

¹ The National Research Council, 1998

8 This project began in 2005 with the publication of our *Every Child Ready to Read: Tips for Developing Your Child's Early Literacy Skills* booklets, produced in English and Spanish with accompanying DVDs. The booklets were distributed to 38,000 new mothers and fathers throughout Idaho in 2005 and many hospitals continue to distribute them. Sample pages, as well as other web resources, are available www.LPLearningCenter.org.

9 You can be a part of the *Idaho Early Literacy Project* by attending a training or inviting a preschool teacher or early care provider to this valuable training. Simply send an email to: Cristianne Lane at clane@LPLearningCenter.org and requesting a registration form for a *BUILDING BLOCKS FOR LITERACY*® training in your area.

10 Approximately 11,000 children in Idaho attend preschools. Many thousands of additional children attend daycares. Often these teachers and care providers have had little or no training in literacy development. *BUILDING BLOCKS FOR LITERACY*® classes teach early educators how literacy develops and the tremendous impact they can have on children's lives. Through fun songs, games, and activities early educators leave these classes with a new approach to reading books and ideas for weaving valuable literacy activities into a child's day.

2009-2010 BUILDING BLOCKS FOR LITERACY® Trainings

| | |
|--|---|
| Aug 28 or 29 Oct 9 or 10 | Part I in Idaho Falls Part II in Idaho Falls |
| Sept 18 Nov 13 | Part I in Lewiston for Head Start Part II in Lewiston for Head Start |
| Sept 26 Oct 17 | Part I in Twin Falls Part II in Twin Falls |
| Oct 5 Nov 9 | Part I in Twin Falls for Head Start Part II in Twin Falls for Head Start |
| Oct 24 Nov 14 | Part I in Lewiston Part II in Lewiston |
| Nov 6 or 7 Dec 4 or 5 | Part I in Post Falls Part II in Post Falls |
| Nov 20 or 21 Dec 11 or 12 | Part I in Pocatello Part II in Pocatello |
| Jan 22 or 23 Feb 26 or 27 | Part I in Boise Part II in Boise |

**More trainings coming
Spring 2010**

Website Resources

www.earlylit.net - Early Childhood Literacy. A HUGE list of web resources and books for early literacy
www.getreadytoread.org - Get Ready to Read. Quick screening tool for 4 year olds, numerous early literacy activities for teachers and parents
www.idahostars.org and www.idahoeyc.org - IdahoSTARS. Idaho resources for early educators
www.nifl.gov/partnershipforreading/publications/earlychildhood - National Institute for Literacy. Free materials on literacy development
www.nifl.org - Reading is Fundamental. Teachers and parent resources, free electronic books, articles
www.readingrockets.org - Reading Rockets. Great teacher resource with articles, webinars, activities



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Classes We Can Deliver in Your District:

- Putting the Fun and Effectiveness Back in Fluency Instruction
- Implementing Research-Based Reading Programs
- Writing Across the Content
- Step Up to Writing Support and Coaching
- Effective Instructional Strategies for ALL Learners (including SIOP support)
- Data-Driven Instruction and Progress Monitoring
- Designing and Implementing Excellent Comprehension and Vocabulary
- Nurturing Number Sense
- Idaho Comprehensive Literacy Course, Standards I, II, III (also being taught at LPLC in February, March, April, and again in June)

For more course options, visit

www.LPLearningCenter.org