

preschool
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PROMISE

because the first 5 years matter

15TH ANNUAL READINESS SUMMIT

Wiring
the **BRAIN**

THE SCIENCE OF READING EXPLAINED

2024

FRIDAY, MARCH 1 | SINCLAIR COLLEGE

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MONTGOMERY
C O U N T Y

Welcome to the
**15TH ANNUAL
READINESS SUMMIT!**

Thank you for joining us today as we explore the Science of Reading and the ways that it can benefit all of our children. We hope the 15th Annual Readiness Summit gives you new or expanded tools to support this research-based approach in our classrooms, school districts and communities. Our keynote speaker, Susan B. Neuman, is an expert in teaching reading and our breakout presenters include teachers who are seeing extraordinary success using the Science of Reading with their students. Whether you are an educator, a community or business leader, or a parent, we're grateful you are here and look forward to hearing from you!



Robyn Lightcap,
Executive Director
Preschool Promise

Keynote Speaker **DR. SUSAN B. NEUMAN**

Susan B. Neuman has spent her career working on creating conditions for children to gain literacy and helping teachers to prepare them. A former U.S. Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education, Neuman was responsible for initial implementation of the No Child Left Behind Act, within which she established the Early Reading First program. She is Professor and Chair of the Teaching and Learning Department at New York University, and has taught at Georgetown University, Temple University and the University of Michigan. There, she served as Director of Dissemination and National Leadership for the Center for the Improvement of Early Reading Achievement (CIERA), a consortium whose mission was "to improve the reading achievement of America's children by generating and disseminating theoretical, empirical, and practical solutions to persistent problems in the learning and teaching of beginning reading." She has written more than 100 articles and authored or edited 11 books. She holds a doctorate in education from the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California, an M.A. in Reading Supervision and Administration from California State University, Hayward and a bachelor's in religion and philosophy from American University.



Thank you to our presenting sponsors



Community Sponsors



7 a.m.	Registration & Breakfast Buffet	
8 a.m.	Welcome	Robyn Lightcap, Executive Director Preschool Promise
	Healthy and Ready to Read	Deborah Feldman, President & CEO Dayton Children’s Hospital Preschool Promise Board Chair
	The Superintendents Commitment	Dave Jackson, Superintendent Northridge City Schools
	Video: Science of Reading Explained	B2 Studios and Ellen Belcher
	The Love of Reading	Stacy Wall Schweikhart, CEO Learn to Earn Dayton Representative Andrea White Ohio House of Representatives Commissioner Debbie Lieberman Montgomery County Commission Mayor Jeffrey J. Mims, Jr. City of Dayton
	Video: Rethinking Linguistic Diversity	Dr. Amberly Evans
	Introduction of our Keynote Speaker	Dr. Melissa Weber-Mayrer Literacy Chief, State of Ohio
	The Myths and Facts About the Science of Reading	Dr. Susan B. Neuman
	Music: “Great Days”	Fairview Scholars of H.O.P.E. Conductor: Marcus Bode
	Next Steps	Robyn Lightcap
9:45 a.m.	Break	
10 a.m.	Breakouts, Round 1	
10:50 a.m.	Break	
11 a.m.	Breakouts, Round 2	

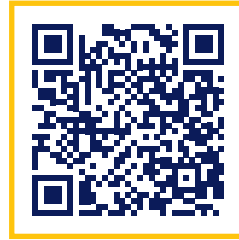
SCIENCE OF READING RESOURCES



Article

[5 Science-Based Tips for Promoting Literacy in Preschool](#)

by J. Richard Gentry Ph.D.



Article

[The Science of Reading in Preschool](#)

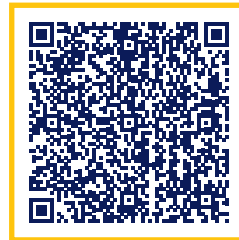
by Illinois Early Learning Project



Article

[Learning by Listening to Language \(Tip Sheet\)](#)

by Illinois Early Learning Project



Article

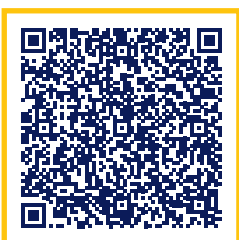
[Ohio's Ready School Guide for Language and Literacy](#)



Article

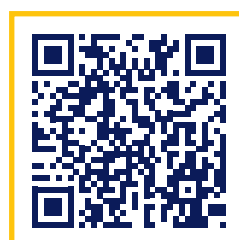
[Preparing Young Children for School](#)

This practice guide, developed in conjunction with an expert panel, distills contemporary early childhood and preschool education research into seven easily comprehensible and practical recommendations. The guidance will help to prepare young children to benefit from the learning opportunities they will encounter in school.



Article

[Implementing Ohio's Plan to Raise Literacy Achievement: A Guide for Early Care and Education Leaders A Companion to Ohio's Ready School Guide for Language and Literacy](#)



Podcast

[Science of Reading: The Podcast](#)

from Amplify



Website

Day by Day Ohio

A perpetual calendar featuring songs, language and literacy activities, book suggestions, and videos.



Website

Ohio's Early Learning and Development Standards

Website



Language and Literacy Professional Development for Ohio's Early Care and Education Professionals

The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce partners with The Rollins Center for Language and Literacy to bring FREE language and literacy training to Ohio-based early care and education professionals!

The Rollins Center at the Atlanta Speech School and its online professional development community Cox Campus (www.coxcampus.org) have been built with the leading experts and fully funded by philanthropy to remove barriers to access for teachers, schools, districts and families.



Book

The Knowledge Gap: The Hidden Cause of America's Broken Education System and How to Fix It

by Natalie Wexler



Book

Thirty Million Words: Building a Child's Brain

by Dana Suskind, MD



Book

Multi-Tiered Systems of Support for Young Children: Driving Change in Early Education

by Judith J. Carta & Robin Miller Young



Book

Literacy Learning for Infants, Toddlers, and Preschoolers: Key Practices for Educators

by Tanya S. Wright, Sonia Q. Cabell, Nell K. Duke, Mariana Souto-Manning



Book

Strive-for-Five Conversations: A Framework That Gets Kids Talking to Accelerate Their Language Comprehension and Literacy (The Science of Reading in Practice)

by Tricia Zucker, Sonia Cabell

BREAKOUT QUICK GUIDE

<i>Breakout</i>	<i>Facilitator(s)</i>	<i>Room</i>
A 1-2-3, Come Read With Me	Rebecca Conley, Montgomery County Educational Service Center	282
B Brain Science: Wired for HOPE	Melanie Estes and Kayla Hairston, Greene County Educational Service Center	120
C We Need To Talk	Amy Kronberg, University of Dayton and Preschool Promise, and Emily Nye, Preschool Promise	262
D It's Time to Rhyme	Jamie Battaglia Garcia, Washington-Centerville Public Library	119
E What's Love Got To Do With It?: Emotional Literacy and NeuroScience	Grace Schoessow and Mindy Nickles, Greene County Educational Service Center	172
F Weaving Reading Into Your Day	Mandy Guilmain and Marla Morgan, Mad River Local School District	164
G Can You Hear Me Now?	Nicole Ferguson, Greene County Educational Service Center	165
H Solid Foundations: Building a Love of Reading	Amber Cristofaro and Theresa Callen, Dayton Metro Library	133
I Reading is Lit: Implementing Universal Supports to Improve Early Literacy	Maya Dorsey and Jane McGee-Rafal, Learn to Earn Dayton	251
J The Right to Read film	Film shown in-part over both breakout sessions	150
K Watch the Screen (Time!)	Carrie Taylor and Jodi Kulka, Greene County Educational Service Center	171
L Equity and the Science of Reading	Dave Taylor and Briana Snoddy, Dayton Early College Academy	116

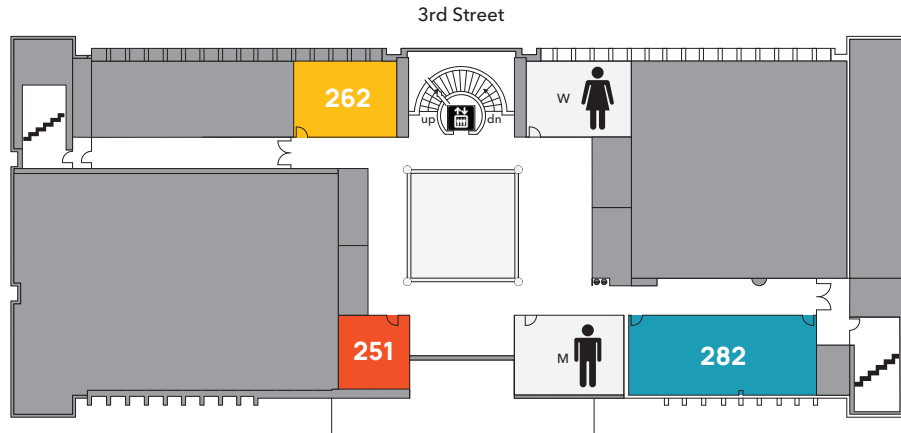
Session 1 ONLY

For additional information, on the breakout sessions, including speaker bio and supporting resources, please scan the QR code.

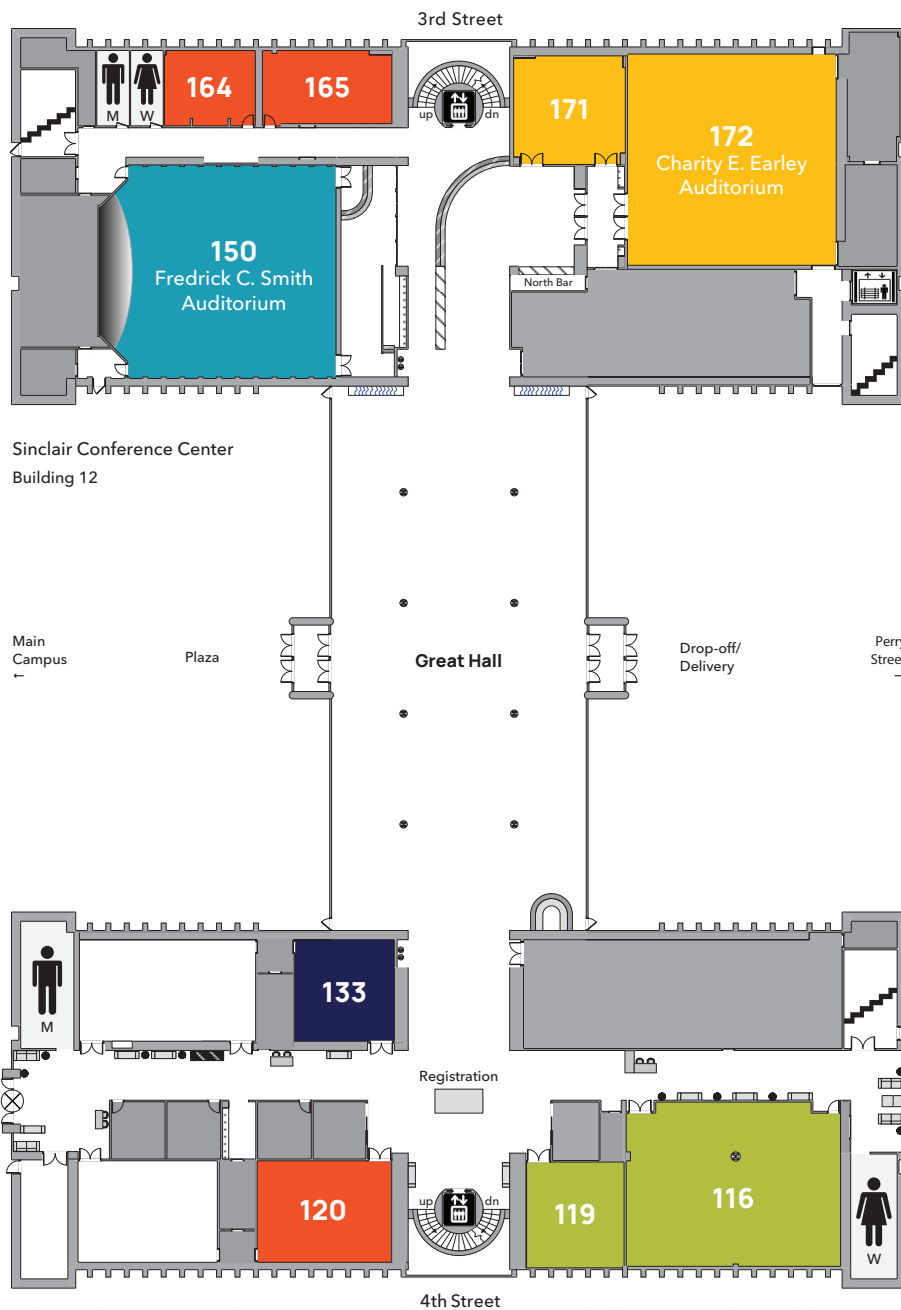


Can only be accessed from 3rd Street side of Great Hall

Second Floor



First Floor



BREAKOUT DESCRIPTIONS

A 1-2-3, COME READ WITH ME

ROOM 282

Rebecca Conley, Montgomery County Educational Service Center



This presentation will focus on three important emergent literacy skills: Phonemic Awareness, Oral Language and Print Awareness and their relation to Scarborough's Rope.

Rebecca Conley is a Regional Literacy Coaching Coordinator through the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce. She has taught kindergarten, first and second grades as well as Title One and English Language Learners.

B BRAIN SCIENCE: WIRED FOR HOPE

ROOM 120

Melanie Estes and Kayla Hairston, Greene County Educational Service Center

Combining research on early childhood brain development with the four building blocks of HOPE (Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences), we will discuss the importance of early relationships, connections and experiences, and how those are important to overall cognitive brain development. We will discuss how adversity and stress early in life can negatively impact brain development.



Melanie Estes is an Infant Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant, project manager and trainer, with a psychology degree and a nursing license. She is a HOPE Champion working to mitigate Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) through mental health prevention and promotion.



Kayla Hairston is an Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant at the Greene County Educational Service Center. Kayla is very passionate about empowering others to be advocates of their life journeys; and is dedicated to addressing the social determinants of health that stand in the way of future success.

C WE NEED TO TALK

ROOM 262

Amy Kronberg, University of Dayton and Preschool Promise, and Emily Nye, Preschool Promise



Learning begins at birth, and children cannot use words they don't hear. This session will focus on talking tips for infants and toddlers throughout the day. We will share tips and tricks for foundational language and literacy skills and how to embed them into daily routines.

Amy Kronberg is Senior Manager, Early Learning Initiatives with Preschool Promise and Adjunct Faculty with the University of Dayton. She supports infant/toddler teachers in building early language/literacy skills.



Emily Nye is an Infant/Toddler Consultant with Preschool Promise. She co-facilitates a professional learning community for infant and toddler teachers, focusing on creating equitable talk environments for our youngest learners.

D IT'S TIME TO RHYME

ROOM 119

Jamie Battaglia Garcia, Washington-Centerville Public Library

This presentation will focus on the importance of rhyming, which builds literacy through learning sounds in individual letters, chunking words together and identifying beats and syllables. We will explore hands-on activities that can be used at home and in the classroom to promote and encourage rhyming.



Jamie Garcia is the Early Literacy Specialist at the Washington-Centerville Public Library. Jamie strongly believes in identifying service or demographic gaps with patrons, and finding ways to meet them where they are. Her educational research focused on equitable resources, children's services, and social justice.

E WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT?: EMOTIONAL LITERACY AND NEUROSCIENCE

ROOM 172

Grace Schoessow and Mindy Nickles, Greene County Educational Service Center

This session will provide attendees with a comprehensive understanding of Emotional Literacy, a vital component of early childhood development for the building of healthy brains. Emotional Literacy is the ability to recognize, understand, express and manage one's own emotions, as well as interpret and respond to the emotions of others. It plays a fundamental role in fostering healthy relationships, empathy and social skills in young children. This interactive session will explore neuroscience, and strategies and activities to enhance Emotional Literacy in early education settings.



Grace Schoessow, Director of Infant Early Childhood Mental Health, is an early childhood mental health consultant and certified trauma practitioner with a Master's degree in clinical psychology. She specializes in intervening early to support optimal mental health and full inclusion.



Mindy Nickles, Early Childhood Mental Health consultant, is an Ohio licensed independent social worker who holds Early Childhood and Infant Mental Health credentials. She has been working with children and families for 20 years, including as a treatment coordinator in therapeutic foster care and as a case manager for Head Start.

F WEAVING READING INTO YOUR DAY

ROOM 164

Mandy Guilmain and Marla Morgan, Mad River Local School District



Attendees will learn how to use decodable text readers and layer on the higher "strands" of the Reading Rope, such as background knowledge, vocabulary and reasoning, to aid students in strengthening their reading skills. Participants will come away with strategies of how to organically implement these strategies into daily lesson plans.

Mandy Guilmain implemented the best practices of the Science of Reading in her kindergarten class, after completing LETRS (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling) training in 2021. As a result, 90% of the class mastered the Universal Screener her district uses to determine reading proficiency.



Marla Morgan provides literacy and special education support in the Mad River Local School District. She's LETRS-trained, enjoys learning about the Science of Reading and wishes she held this knowledge earlier in her 23-year career.

G CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?

ROOM 165

Nicole Ferguson, Greene County Educational Service Center

Attendees will learn the connection between how the sounds we hear and speak make up the words we learn to read. This session introduces components to help students recognize the way their mouth feels and looks when producing sounds. This practice will help them connect speech to print. We will briefly discuss how Sound Walls can be incorporated in the classroom.



Nicole Ferguson is the Instructional Support Coordinator, Elementary Literacy Specialist, LETRS Local Facilitator and Regional Data Lead with GCESC. She has created a roadmap for supporting teachers in making instructional shifts in their teaching practice to align with the evidence rooted in the Science of Reading and has provided professional development to local districts to allow teachers to apply their knowledge in their classroom.

H SOLID FOUNDATIONS: BUILDING A LOVE OF READING

ROOM 133

Amber Cristofaro and Theresa Callen, Dayton Metro Library



Join staff from the Dayton Metro Library to discuss strategies and resources that support developing readers. We will discuss how dialogic reading aligns with the Science of Reading, review the six skills and five practices of early literacy, and share tools for helping children build a love of reading.

Amber Cristofaro, Early Learning Coordinator, has worked for Dayton Metro Library for 25+ years at a variety of locations. She has a Bachelor of Science in Education, Early Childhood Education and Teaching from the University of Cincinnati and a Master of Library and Information Science from Kent State University.



Theresa Callen, Elementary Age Coordinator, works on systemwide library initiatives for elementary-aged children and their caregivers. She is involved with projects such as Summer Challenge, First Club and expanding programming opportunities through community partnerships.

I READING IS LIT: IMPLEMENTING UNIVERSAL SUPPORTS TO IMPROVE EARLY LITERACY

ROOM 251

Maya Dorsey, Director and Jane McGee-Rafal, Learn to Earn Dayton



This presentation is a follow-up to the 2023 session in which we shared the developmental concepts of our Reading is Lit home literacy boxes. This year, we will be sharing the creation process of the first and second boxes and will update breakout attendees on the progress of the Mighty Rams classes in Trotwood-Madison Schools, including the onsite University of Dayton High Dosage tutoring program.

Maya Dorsey, Director, K-12 Strategies, holds teacher and principal licenses. Before joining Learn to Earn in 2018, she was an elementary school dean, assistant middle school principal, reading specialist and classroom teacher. Maya's degrees and endorsements include educational leadership with emphasis on reading.

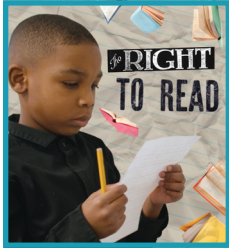


Jane McGee-Rafal, The Dayton Foundation Del Mar Encore Fellow with Learn to Earn Dayton, began her career in public education in rural Ohio in 1968 and has served five school districts in Ohio and Arizona. She was the first female superintendent of the Warren City Schools in Trumbull County, Ohio, and was Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction in Mesa, Arizona.

J THE RIGHT TO READ FILM

ROOM 150

A film by Jenny Mackenzie, executive produced by Levar Burton



The Right to Read addresses the greatest civil rights issue of our time, sharing the stories of a courageous activist, a teacher, and two American families who fight to provide our youngest generation with the most foundational indicator of life-long success: the ability to read. Because of the length of the film, the first half will be shown in the first breakout session, completing it in the second session. Following the completion of the movie, Christopher James will conduct a question and answer session with attendees.

K WATCH THE SCREEN (TIME!)

ROOM 171

Carrie Taylor and Jodi Kulka, Greene County Educational Service Center

In early childhood, when the brain is growing rapidly and forming neural connections, experiences profoundly influence brain structure, function, cognitive and emotional development. In this breakout, we will discuss the effects of screen time on children and their developing brains, and participants will learn strategies for working with caregivers, parents and families on reducing screen time. We will share screen time guidelines for children and screen time assessments that can be used in educational, home and pediatric settings.



Carrie Taylor, Early Childhood Mental Health Coordinator, has an undergraduate degree in social work and women's studies and a Master's in degree in Education and Intervention. Carrie collaborates with local school districts, childcare centers, Early Intervention, Help Me Grow and local Head Start centers to bring awareness and education surrounding early childhood mental health initiatives.



Jodi Kulka, M.Ed., OCPS, is a new member of the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation team. She brings more than 20 years of experience in education, supervision, grant writing and management and program development.

L EQUITY AND THE SCIENCE OF READING

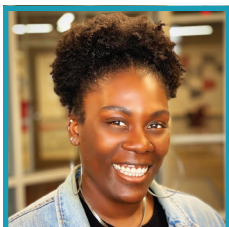
ROOM 116

Dave Taylor and Briana Snoddy, Dayton Early College Academy

Teaching using the Science of Reading has the potential to dramatically affect how many children can achieve reading proficiency, but the work is not complete unless all children have access to high quality literacy instruction. In this session, attendees will explore evidence-based approaches to fostering equitable access to reading proficiency.



Dave Taylor is the Superintendent and CEO of the Dayton Early College Academy (DECA). He is a sought after speaker on topics ranging from equity in schools to instructional leadership to organizational leadership. He is deeply committed to ensure that all children have access to an equitable education.



Briana Snoddy is an Equity Fellow and a leader of equity initiatives at DECA. She has led DEI trainings at several institutions.



If you appreciate the work Preschool Promise is doing in our community, scan here to make a secure (and greatly appreciated!) donation.

Thank you
**TO THE READINESS SUMMIT
PLANNING COMMITTEE:**


Ashley Anderson, Trotwood-Madison City Schools
Ellen Belcher, Preschool Promise, Consultant
Wesley O. Biles, II, Learn to Earn Dayton
Jen Brauer, Preschool Promise
Gayle Covington-Fowler, The Genstitute
Amber Cristofaro, Dayton Metro Library
Shelly Davies, Preschool Promise
Jamie Garcia, Washington-Centerville Public Library
Doug Horvath, Five Rivers Metroparks
Palmer Jason, Good Shepherd Academy
Latoria Marcellus, Preschool Promise
Jane McGee-Rafal, Del Mar Encore Fellow
Cory Miller, Mad River Local Schools
Sandra Raye-Redmond, Preschool Promise
Dena Shephard, Lebanon City Schools
Grace Schoessow, Greene County Educational Service Center
Cindy Smith, Kettering Early Childhood Education Center
Katie Thompson, 4C for Children
Kisha Tyree, Tumbling Tots
Noreen Willhelm, Preschool Promise, Consultant
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