






NetWORDing Early Literacy Conference

Saturday, April 26, 2025

12:00-12:15	Registration - EL 1270 Ideas Lounge and Atrium
12:15-12:50	Opening - EL 1270 Ideas Lounge and Atrium
1:00-1:50	Breakout session 1
2:00-2:50	Breakout session 2
3:00-3:50	Breakout session 3

1:00 - 1:50 Concurrent Breakout Sessions #1				
Drama to Enhance Storybook Comprehension Jodi Nickel EL 3460	Navigating the Deep Dark Wood: Strengthening Read-Aloud Skills for Engaging Storytimes Nancy Espetveidt EL 3249		Cultivating Resilience and Flourishing in Everyday Life: A Workshop Suzanne Tough, Jessica Walsh & Zahra Clayborne EL 1441	Engaging Families in Literacy, Practical Actions for Long Term Impact Janelle Wydeven EL 3441
2:00 - 2:50 Concurrent Breakout Sessions #2				
		"Cut, Paste, Create: Bringing Stories to Life Through Collage" Jennifer Stables EL 3345	Cultivating Resilience and Flourishing in Everyday Life: A Workshop Suzanne Tough, Jessica Walsh & Zahra Clayborne *REPEAT EL 1441	Engaging Families in Literacy, Practical Actions for Long Term Impact Janelle Wydeven *REPEAT EL 3441
3:00 - 3:50 Concurrent Breakout Sessions #3				
Drama to Enhance Storybook Comprehension Jodi Nickel *REPEAT EL 3460	Navigating the Deep Dark Wood: Strengthening Read-Aloud Skills for Engaging Storytimes Nancy Espetveidt *REPEAT EL 3345	"Cut, Paste, Create: Bringing Stories to Life Through Collage" Jennifer Stables *REPEAT EL 3345		

Jodi Nickel
Mount Royal University

Drama to Enhance Storybook Comprehension

Drama can be an engaging tool to enhance storybook comprehension and inferences about characters' feelings and motivations. Participants will experience a variety of drama strategies including Teacher in Role, Freeze Frames with Thought Tracking, and Puppets. Each strategy will be tied to a picture book with opportunities to explore applications to other books as well.

Nancy Espetveidt
Mount Royal University

Navigating the Deep Dark Wood: Strengthening Read-Aloud Skills for Engaging Storytimes

Step into the deep, dark wood as we bring *The Gruffalo* (Donaldson, 1999) to life through intentional, interactive picture book read-aloud practices. This immersive session in the university's Immersion Studio will spark your imagination and help you refine your read-aloud skills. Join a cast of forest animals on a lively adventure—just be careful who's looking for their next tasty snack!

Jennifer Stables
Children's Book Author-Illustrator | Early Childhood Educator

"Cut, Paste, Create: Bringing Stories to Life Through Collage"

How can we spark children's imaginations and encourage them to explore storytelling? Join children's book author-illustrator and Teaching Artist, Jennifer Dale Stables for an interactive, hands-on session exploring the magic of collage as a tool for storytelling. Jennifer will share her creative process, offering practical insights on engaging young readers through art and illustration. She'll also share examples from her latest project with *Seeding Readers*, where she guided a group of children in collaboratively illustrating a picture book through collage.

**Suzanne Tough
 Jessica Walsh
 Zahra Clayborne**
Departments of Pediatrics and Community Health Sciences in the Cumming School of Medicine at the University of Calgary

Cultivating Resilience and Flourishing in Everyday Life: A Workshop

Decades of research by Suzanne Tough, PhD, and others have identified practical approaches known as the 3Rs: Routines, Resources, and Relationships. These approaches help people feel better, allocate more time for what matters, and make better decisions during challenging times. This workshop will provide an overview of these approaches and the science behind why they work. It will also offer participants opportunities to consider how to incorporate these approaches into their daily lives. By taking actions inspired by the 3Rs—such as establishing routines, making brief connections with others, or using community resources—we can enhance our well-being.

Janelle Wydeven
Family Engagement Consultant

Engaging Families in Literacy, Practical Actions for Long Term Impact

In this session we will explore a large body of research that shows us the impact of family engagement on learning outcomes for children. How do we do this in our classrooms? And how do we ensure it isn't "one more thing" to do? We will define exactly what family engagement is, and explore practical ideas on how we can build relationships with families to mobilize opportunities for expanding their literacy knowledge.

