

# Day One

**Keynote • 9:00 – 9:30 AM**

## **“The Art and Science of Learning in First and Second Grades”**

– *Kelly Harmon*

How are you combining the art and science of learning to help your first and second grade students successfully develop their social and academic skills? Let’s kick off a great two days together as we explore how to create the kind of authentic and meaningful learning opportunities that will help your young students better thrive in the classroom! You will learn the five keys to using the scientific research, while being artful in the design and delivery of instruction for first and second graders. This truly insightful keynote delivered by Kelly Harmon will leave you inspired and ready for two days of learning designed just for YOU.

## **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: Re-Thinking Small Group Reading Instruction in Grades One and Two**

– *Annemarie Johnson*

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

**First 70-Minute Morning Sessions  
9:40 – 10:50 AM**

#### **CHOOSE ONE: A-2 or A-3**

### **A-2: Writing to Learn: Using Writing to Help First and Second Grades Build World Knowledge** – *Kelly Harmon*

Writing utilizes literacy skills that can and should be used to help students build knowledge in all content areas. Discover strategies and activities that help students process science and social studies content and vocabulary, while practicing important writing skills. Kelly will show you how to incorporate writing instruction and skills more easily in your first and second grade classroom. You won’t want to miss this practical and immediately useful session to help students write across the curriculum.

### **A-3: Using Morning Meetings to Build a Community of Learners While Meeting Grades 1 and 2 Academic Standards** – *Deb Wirth*

Learn how to effectively use the four components of morning meetings to create a caring, respectful community of learners. Discover how building this environment can enhance academic learning and meet mandated state standards yet foster a wide range of skills, attitudes, and behaviors that can positively affect your first and second grade students’ success in school and life.

**Second 70-Minute Morning Sessions  
11:00 AM – 12:10 PM**

#### **CHOOSE ONE: A-4 or A-5**

### **A-4: Using Children’s Literature to Engage Students in Problem Solving Activities** – *Kelly Harmon*

Children’s books provide a perfect starting point for engaging first and second grade students in authentic problem solving. In this session, explore literature matched to math standards and great ways you can use manipulatives and drawing strategies during Guided Math to help your young students think more deeply through complex math problems.

### **A-5: Stop Spending Valuable Money and Time on First and Second Grade Center Construction ... There’s a Better Way!** – *Deb Wirth*

Are you interested in using centers in your math classroom, but feel burnt out from the creation of multi-leveled activities? Learn how to create effective tiered centers reaching first and second grade students of all ability levels. Discover the power of incorporating ‘variations on a theme’ to get more use out of center activities rather than utilizing the ‘one and done’ method.



### **Team Discount**

**ONE DAY**  
One Person: \$289

**BOTH DAYS**  
One Person: \$489

**Team of 3+: \$469 per person  
when enrolled at the same time  
for both days**

*“Lots of great strategies to  
use right away! Content  
was highly relevant!”*

– *Kim Beaudette, Reading Specialist*

**Lunch break • 12:10 – 1:10 PM**

*“I had a great time with each instructor and other participants in the break out rooms. I learned a lot of information that I can use.”* 3

## Who is BER?

The Bureau of Education & Research is North America's leading presenter of training for professional educators. Our goal is to provide high-quality PD programs, based on sound research, with an emphasis on practical strategies and techniques that can be immediately implemented.

*"A lot of great, engaging strategies to bring into my classroom that I know my students are going to love! Thanks for an engaging, virtual conference! I will be back for more conferences in the future!"*

– Nicole Oesch, K/1 Teacher



# 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: Improving Math Intervention Techniques for ALL Your First and Second Grade Students** – Deb Wirth

Join Deb in exploring effective instructional strategies and delivery techniques designed to boost mathematical achievement and growth for all your first and second grade students. Learn ways to improve the use of visuals, explicit language, and vocabulary during instruction ideal for this grade level. Determine best practices to help students develop problem solving strategies and mathematical fluency. Discover intervention tools that can be readily utilized!

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

##### **CHOOSE ONE: B-2 or B-3**

#### **B-2: Let's Get Real in Informational Text! Strategies to Engage and Support Struggling Readers in Grades One and Two** – Kelly Harmon

Information text reading, the majority of reading we do as adults, is the type of reading students struggle with the most. Learning to read requires first and second grade readers to intentionally select skills and strategies to think within, beyond, and about factual texts. Join Kelly to explore ways to overcome gaps in background knowledge, as well as specific comprehension strategies that will help your first and second graders better process informational texts.

#### **B-3: Phonological Awareness: The Foundation for All Readers and a Missing Link for Most Readers with Dyslexia** – Annemarie Johnson

In this session we will explore what phonological awareness is, why it is important for all readers and critical for children who may have dyslexia, and which phonological awareness skills matter most. You will leave with a menu of engaging instructional methods and routines that can be woven into your first and second grade school day, regardless of the reading program you use.

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

##### **CHOOSE ONE: B-4 or B-5**

#### **B-4: From Phonics to Fluency in First and Second Grade** – Kelly Harmon

We know that phonics and fluency go hand in hand because they are both essential components of a proficient reader. This session will explore ideas for extending your first and second grade students' phonemic awareness, phonics, and reading fluency. Explore engaging activities that will get your students hearing sounds, using letter and syllable patterns to read and spell words, and ultimately reading fluently and more successfully!

#### **B-5: Brain-Friendly Ways to Teach Sight Words in First and Second Grade** – Annemarie Johnson

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

### Can't Attend? Online Professional Development Options:



#### Related Online Courses

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](http://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: Helping First and Second Grade Students Build and Use Background Knowledge to Boost Reading Comprehension** – *Kelly Harmon*

Many first and second grade children struggle to read simply because they lack background knowledge and vocabulary needed to make inferences required to fully comprehend and compose texts. In this session, we will examine how to help students build their vocabulary and background knowledge. We will examine strategies for teaching first and second graders how to activate background knowledge to support comprehension and thinking. We will look at topics and, strategies and activities we can use to more intentionally help students who have the unearned disadvantage of lacking concepts and vocabulary.

### First 75–Minute Morning Sessions 9:00 – 10:15 AM

#### **CHOOSE ONE: C-2 or C-3**

##### **C-2: Enhancing Vocabulary and Language Conventions with Shared and Interactive Writing**

– *Annemarie Johnson*

In this idea-packed session you will learn innovative ways to increase your first and second grade students' vocabulary knowledge, solidify their language conventions, and inspire them toward a love of writing! Learn how to reinforce and assess first and second grade skills you have taught by using traveling class books. You'll leave this session with exciting ideas you will want to use immediately with your own students.

##### **C-3: Engaging Card Games to Help Reinforce First and Second Grade Math Skills** – *Deb Wirth*

This session is full of innovative card games you can immediately use with your first and second grade students to reinforce their basic math skills. Discover how these card games can provide unique practice opportunities for mastering math skills at school and at home! Explore topics including number recognition, comparing numbers, three addend addition, rounding 10s and adding 10s, addition and subtraction facts, odd and even numbers, place value, and sequencing. Have a set of playing cards and four dice ready and plan to play along!

### Second 75–Minute Morning Sessions 10:25 – 11:40 AM

#### **CHOOSE ONE: C-4 or C-5**

##### **C-4: Using Decodable Texts to Strengthen Your First and Second Grade Reading Instruction** – *Annemarie Johnson*

Discover the important role that decodable texts play in the young reader's literacy journey. Explore ways to select the most effective texts and avoid weak ones. Walk away with valuable instructional routines that you can incorporate into your first and second grade reading instruction immediately!

##### **C-5: Build Competent and Confident Mathematicians** – *Deb Wirth*

Investigate how the power of our words and thoughts can enhance or detract from comprehension of mathematical concepts. Explore activities and routines to foster a growth mindset, develop positive norms, and strengthen student understanding for your first and second grade students. You will leave this session with a simple five-step acronym for guaranteeing your students' academic success!

## 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
- Assessment techniques, samples and tools perfect for first and second grade students
- Ready-to-use resources for reinforcing or catching up your young student learners



*“Very helpful! I enjoyed all the sessions and can't wait to use them in my classroom!”*

– Lisa Marley, 2nd Grade Teacher

### Lunch Break • 11:40 AM – 12:40 PM

## ABOUT BER CONFERENCES

### Outstanding Instructors

All programs are led by outstanding, top-rated BER national trainers.

### Extensive Resource Handbook

You'll receive an extensive digital Resource Handbook full of practical strategies and resources.

### Highly Interactive

You'll be able to ask questions, consult with the instructors, and share ideas with other participants.

### Program Guarantee

As we have for 45 years, we guarantee the high quality of our programs. If you are not satisfied, we'll give you a 100% refund.



### 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](http://www.ber.org/online)

# 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

### CHOOSE ONE: D-1, D-2 or D-3

#### **D-1: Utilize Number Talks to Practice Computational Skills and Develop Mental Math Abilities** – *Kelly Harmon*

Engage your first and second grade students in daily number talks that help them practice computational skills and develop mental math strategies, perfect for Guided Math in first and second grades. Learn how to develop standards-specific number talks that incorporate student interests, strengthen their skills, and help all students achieve, even those who've fallen behind.

#### **D-2: Using Read-Alouds to Accelerate Your First and Second Graders' Reading Skills** – *Annemarie Johnson*

Looking for ways to improve reading comprehension and expose your students to more complex texts? Look no further than read-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-3: Connecting Brain Research and Differentiated Instruction to Motivate ALL Students** – *Deb Wirth*

Learn practical, easy-to-implement ways to enhance your classroom community, promote positive interaction and help students be enthusiastic, excited learners. Discover a multitude of activities and strategies that can be used with any content area. You will leave this session with a ready-to-implement unit organizer which will address the multiple intelligences present in any classroom.

**Second 75-Minute  
Afternoon Sessions**  
2:05 – 3:20 PM

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

#### **D-4: Terrific Math Games for the Rest of Your Class While You Teach Guided Math Groups** – *Kelly Harmon*

Explore how to set up games that are perfect for centers or stations in first and second grades. Engage your learners in strategic thinking and deepen their foundational knowledge while you teach Guided Math groups. Walk away with management ideas and resources you can use to maximize success for both students who've fallen behind and those ready for new challenges.

#### **D-5: 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-6: Successful Classroom Management and Student Behavior Techniques** – *Deb Wirth*

Ever need new "tricks of the trade" for managing your class or small groups? This session will give you several ideas to help your classroom run smoothly and efficiently. Discover ways to encourage the "hard to reach" or "difficult" student to work cooperatively and effectively. Learn how your classroom can be an inviting, safe and secure setting for all your students.

### 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](http://www.ber.org/onsite) or call 877-857-8964 to speak with an On-Site Training PD Consultant.