EarlyBird Professional Development
School Year 2024-2025

Welcome to our new Professional Development Series!

Each session is thirty minutes long to help you optimize valuable teacher time and school resources. Some sessions have been grouped together to provide an opportunity to learn about an entire topic. For example, learn all of the instructional practices offered in EarlyBird's Next Steps Resources by taking one instructional strategy at a time; or learn the basics of the Science of Reading by taking both Part 1 and Part 2 in our General Audience Series. You will now be able to combine your hour-long Benchmark Period Workshop with two separate 30-minute segments: 1) The Dashboard and Data Discussion, and 2) any other Instructional Strategy. You can even substitute the instructional strategy portion for any other topic, tailoring the workshop session to meet your school or district's individual needs. Please speak with your Customer Success Manager for further information.

EarlyBird New User Series
Why Early Literacy Screening?
Group A   Grade level: All Grades   Time of year: Any
Audience: Teachers, Literacy Specialists, School Leaders, District Administration
Review what statistics have been telling us and the Nation's report card in reading. Discuss what hasn't been working in past assessment models and learn what research tells us about the advantages in early screening.
Train and Launch the Assessment (one hour)
Group A   Grade level: All Grades   Time of year: Before you begin assessing
Audience: Para Professionals, Teachers, Literacy Specialists, Special Educators
A new assessment can be an exciting time for a district as long as everyone is well trained in the administration. We will help make this as seamless as possible for you and your teachers. In this one hour workshop, we will review the teacher dashboard, the ins and outs of the application, and even share some tips on best practice in administering the application. Please note, you will need a full hour for this training workshop.
Train and Launch Refresher (30 minutes)
Group A   Grade level: All Grades   Time of year: Before you begin assessing
Audience: Returning customers - Para Professionals, Teachers, Literacy Specialists, Special Educators
Is a refresher on best administration practices and a look at new updates to the EarlyBird assessment and dashboard just what you need? Then this 30-minute workshop is for you!
What Are We Assessing in PreK?
Group A   Grade level: PreK   Time of year: Your very first workshop
Audience: Para Professionals, Teachers, Literacy Specialists, Special Educators
We will walk through the PreK Gameboard and Dashboard for all benchmark periods to understand the skills that are being assessed and what it may reveal about a student's reading profile.

What Are We Assessing in Kindergarten?

Group A   Grade level: Kindergarten   Time of year: Your very first workshop

Audience: Para Professionals, Teachers, Literacy Specialists, Special Educators

We will walk through the Kindergarten Gameboard and Dashboard for all benchmark periods to understand the skills that are being assessed and what it may reveal about a student's reading profile.

What Are We Assessing in Grade One?

Group A   Grade level: First Grade   Time of year: Your very first workshop

Audience: Para Professionals, Teachers, Literacy Specialists, Special Educators

We will walk through the Grade One Gameboard and Dashboard for all benchmark periods to understand the skills that are being assessed and what it may reveal about a student's reading profile.

What Are We Assessing in Grade Two?

Group A   Grade level: Second Grade   Time of year: Your very first workshop

Audience: Para Professionals, Teachers, Literacy Specialists, Special Educators

We will walk through the Grade Two Gameboard and Dashboard for all benchmark periods to understand the skills that are being assessed and what it may reveal about a student's reading profile.

Navigate Our Teacher Resources Platform

Group A   Grade level: All Grades   Time of year: Any

Audience: Teachers, Literacy Specialists, School Leaders, District Administration

Let's take a tour of our Next Steps Resources and Knowledge Nest! From the dashboard, we will navigate to our Next Steps and highlight the available resources to support your instruction for each component and subtest.   We will walk through the materials, lesson plans, progress monitoring, and at-home resources. We will also review the ins and outs of the Knowledge Nest and where to find materials like the Spanish version of the Family Report. We'll wrap up with the many ways to reach the Literacy Team for additional conversations on the assessment, resources, or perplexing student profiles. This workshop is recommended for our first-time EarlyBird users.

Benchmark Dashboard and Data Discussions

Beginning-of-Year Benchmark

Group B   Grade level: PreK - 2nd Grade   Time of year: BOY Benchmark Period - post assessment

Audience: Teachers, Literacy Specialists, District Administration

Participants will discuss any new enhancements that have taken place in the assessment or dashboard. Conversations include a focus on the subtests that feed into the Predictive Profile for the beginning of the year, along with the opportunity to analyze and discuss the aggregate scores for each subtest. We will look closely at your grade level and classroom, highlighting areas of concentration. Teachers will be guided in completing a quadrant model for student profiles and instructional grouping, and encouraged to bring questions about specific students. Note: PreK does not have a Predictive Profile at this time of year.

Middle-of-Year Benchmark

Group B   Grade level: PreK - 2nd Grade   Time of year: MOY Benchmark Period - post assessment

Audience: Teachers, Literacy Specialists, District Administration

Participants will discuss the Predictive Profile for the middle of the year and how low scores can impact reading success. You will have the opportunity to walk through the aggregate scores for each subtest, as they compare to the beginning-of-year, with suggestions on improvement. We will look closely at your grade level and classroom, and revisit established instructional groups using the quadrant model.   Teachers are encouraged to bring their instructional groups with them for review. Note: PreK does not have a Predictive Profile at this time of year.

End-of-Year Benchmark

Group B   Grade level: PreK - 2nd Grade   Time of year: EOY Benchmark Period - post assessment

Audience: Teachers, Literacy Specialists, District Administration

Participants will discuss the Predictive Profile for the end of the year and how low scores have impacted reading success. PreK will discuss the importance and understanding of the Reading Readiness Flag. You will have the opportunity to talk through the aggregate scores for each subtest with a summary discussion of classroom instruction and thoughts for changes in the following year. Teachers are encouraged to share student information with next year's classroom teacher through reporting features. There will be conversations on the Summer Slide with access to At-Home Resources which can be shared with families.

EarlyBird Instructional Strategies Series

Letter Name and Letter Sound

Group C   Grade level: PreK - Kindergarten   Time of year: BOY depending on grade level

Audience: Para Professionals, Teachers, Literacy Specialists

Dive into the EarlyBird Alphabet Cards and discuss ways to help students master sound symbol correspondence. Learn strategies in using a letter / keyword / sound dot to support letter identification and sound mapping. Discuss the importance of multimodal instruction and keyword / sound in practicing letter formation. Both upper and lower case materials will be shared.

Sound Wall

Group C   Grade level: PreK - 2nd Grade   Time of year: BOY depending on grade level

Audience: Para Professionals, Teachers, Literacy Specialists

Participants will learn the importance of providing speech-to-print in learning to read and spell. Sounds will be grouped by those that can be held and those with voices on/off. We will walk through using the EarlyBird Sound Wall Cards, along with the Student Sound Wall Desktop version to help promote phoneme-grapheme mapping and strategies for spelling in the classroom.

Rhyming

Group C   Grade level: PreK - Kindergarten   Time of year: BOY depending on grade level

Audience: Para Professionals, Teachers, Literacy Specialists

What is the significance of knowing how to rhyme and what is the best way to teach those students who are struggling? Participants will learn visual and auditory strategies that will help build capacity to both rhyming identification and rhyming production.

First Sound Matching

Group C   Grade level: PreK - Kindergarten   Time of year: MOY depending on grade level

Audience: Para Professionals, Teachers, Literacy Specialists

Isolating the first sound of a word is a fundamental step in developing phonemic awareness. Participants will learn the importance of phoneme isolation beginning with isolating the first sound of a word. Together we will explore a teaching strategy that calls on students to match two words that begin with the same sound (phoneme) and/or discover the odd-one-out from a group of 3 or more words. This instruction aligns well with instructional activities for rhyming as initial sound isolation can be taught using onset-rime cards.

Blending

Group C   Grade level: PreK - Kindergarten   Time of year: MOY depending on grade level

Audience: Para Professionals, Teachers, Literacy Specialists

Blending in a skill necessary to read. We begin the foundational skill of blending using EarlyBird Sound Slide cards. These cards give students the opportunity to segment and blend using only auditory inputs. Using the multimodal strategy of sliding sound tiles, along with the scope of the lessons, your teachers will appreciate the ability to make an impact for all learners.

Deletion

Group C   Grade level: 1st Grade   Time of year: MOY depending on grade level

Audience: Para Professionals, Teachers, Literacy Specialists

The ability to keep sounds in sequential order and manipulate them to produce additional words is a more advanced skill in phonemic proficiency. We will review opportunities to practice phoneme manipulation using multimodal strategies of sound tiles and picture cards.

Nonword Reading

Group C   Grade level: K - 2nd Grade   Time of year: Any depending on grade level

Audience: Para Professionals, Teachers, Literacy Specialists

Nonword reading has always been a great indicator of a student's decoding skills. In this session, participants will use the EarlyBird Grapheme Cards to learn the Orton-Gillingham blending drill. Participants will blend nonsense words based on the scope of their grade level. Since the EarlyBird Grapheme Cards use notations that are associated with the EarlyBird Sound Wall, it may be advantageous to take the Sound Wall instructional session before taking Nonword Reading.

Word Reading

Group C	Grade level: K - 2nd Grade	Time of year: Any depending on grade level

Audience: Para Professionals, Teachers, Literacy Specialists

Word Reading is a time to look at sight words. We will discuss the difference between phonetically regular and irregular words and other factors that impact sight word reading. EarlyBird Pip Words cover frequently occurring phonetically irregular words from popular published lists, such as Frye and Dolch. Participants will walk through a strategy similar to "Heart Words" when learning about "Pip Words".

Nonword Spelling

Group C	Grade level: 2nd Grade	Time of year: Any depending on grade level

Audience: Para Professionals, Teachers, Literacy Specialists

Nonword spelling can be a great way to practice phoneme-grapheme mapping. We will use EarlyBird's Spelling Cards to walk through a model of segmenting the phonemes in a word before applying the graphemes. Instruction will focus on very early spelling strategies to build speech-to-print skills.

Vocabulary

Group C	Grade level: PreK - 2nd Grade	Time of year: EOY depending on grade level

Audience: Para Professionals, Teachers, Literacy Specialists

What makes a great vocabulary lesson? Join us as we walk through recommendations for teaching students new content words. We will review the different types of vocabulary tiers and how to engage students in eight steps in learning, using, and connecting new words into their vocabulary. Participants will learn how to create a Vocabulary Notebook for their students.

Word Matching

Group C	Grade level: K - 2nd Grade	Time of year: EOY depending on grade level

Audience: Para Professionals, Teachers, Literacy Specialists

Word classification is a great way to begin the development of critical thinking. We will use pictures to group items by similarity and learn various ways to engage students in this activity all while building vocabulary and background knowledge.

Oral Sentence Comprehension

Group C	Grade level: PreK - 1st Grade	Time of year: EOY depending on grade level

Audience: Para Professionals, Teachers, Literacy Specialists

Teaching comprehension is something often done automatically in the classroom through conversation and teacher guided read-alouds. We will review some specific activities you can use in your classroom to help support student thinking and comprehension. Join us as we share information on Visual Thinking Strategies and the LARRC program.

The Five Reading Components Series

Component: Phonemic Awareness

Group D   Grade level: All Grades   Time of year: Any

Audience: Teachers, Literacy Specialists, School Leaders, District Administration

What do the individual sounds of language have to do with reading? Everything! Participants will learn about the developmental milestones of language and understand the need for speech-to-print instruction when first learning to read. We will walk through the skills of phoneme segmentation, deletion, and manipulation as they apply to learning to read and spell.

Component: Phonics

Group D   Grade level: All Grades   Time of year: Any

Audience: Teachers, Literacy Specialists

What does research say about Phonics instruction? Participants will learn about explicit, systematic Phonics instruction, and how instruction changes with each advancing grade level. Participants will discuss the way in which Phonics overlaps with Phonemic Awareness and Vocabulary to build orthographic mapping.

Component: Vocabulary

Group D   Grade level: All Grades   Time of year: Any

Audience: Teachers, Literacy Specialists, School Leaders, District Administration

Research shows that vocabulary knowledge is critical for effective reading comprehension. Systematic, explicit instruction has proven to be essential for foundational skills and vocabulary acquisition as well. We will review the 3 tiers of words, and focus on research-based instructional strategies with concrete methods to use in your classroom with any text or content.

Component: Comprehension

Group D   Grade level: All Grades   Time of year: Any

Audience: Teachers, Literacy Specialists, School Leaders, District Administration

Comprehension of written texts begins with understanding of individual sentences and then combining these smaller units of information to build deeper meaning. We will look at key elements of early language development, break down skills needed to successfully comprehend sentence level content, and learn about engaging classroom activities that will support language comprehension growth.

Component: Fluency

Group D   Grade level: 1st - 2nd Grade   Time of year: Any

Audience: Teachers, Literacy Specialists, School Leaders, District Administration

Fluency is the product of all of the threads on the Scarborough rope weaving together with automaticity. Discussion will include definitions and components of fluency, assessing fluency, the impact of RAN on fluency and research-based instructional practices.

Advanced Workshops

Administration Data Discussion

Group E   Grade level: All Grades   Time of year: Any

Audience: Literacy Specialists, School Leaders, District Administration

Spend time understanding the reading crisis in the US and the importance of early universal screening. Walk through the aggregate scores of your district and think about how these scores translate to curriculums in place in your classrooms. Discuss any district goals or initiatives for the year and how EarlyBird can help you achieve positive results.

Progress Monitoring and the MTSS Model

Group E   Grade level: All Grades   Time of year: Any

Audience: Teachers, Literacy Specialists, School Leaders, District Administration

We understand the importance of assessing, but providing remediation with progress monitoring is what makes the MTSS model successful. We will walk through a data based individualized instruction model where we begin with a universal screener, use results to form targeted support groups, and progress monitor along the way to make sure the instruction is effective. Some students may need stronger or additional support; what are those considerations and when do we need further testing? Join us to walk through this model of multi-tiered system of supports.

Understanding Student Profiles

Group E   Grade level: All Grades   Time of year: Any

Audience: Teachers, Literacy Specialists, School Leaders

We want to be able to support all students in our classrooms and help them to be their most successful. To achieve that goal, we must understand the profiles and characteristics of students with learning challenges. We will look closely at the definitions and key characteristics of students with Dyslexia and Developmental Language Disorder (DLD), talk about why DLD can be especially challenging to identify, and discuss the overlap and connections between these learning profiles. This will support educators in effectively analyzing student assessment data and responding to their unique needs.

The Influence of Rapid Automatized Naming

Group E   Grade level: All Grades   Time of year: Any

Audience: Teachers, Literacy Specialists, School Leaders

Rapid Automatized Naming, or RAN, is often referred to as a "check-engine light" for educators. In this workshop, we will dive into the important insight RAN can provide around unique learning profiles in the classroom, and discuss the different skill areas that may be negatively impacted by a RAN deficit. Additionally, we will look at current RAN research and best practices to support students who may be struggling to develop mastery with new concepts.

General Audience Series

The Parent Experience

Group F   Grade level: All Grades   Time of year: Any

Audience: Parents

The collaboration between home and school should be strong. Let EarlyBird help strengthen that connection through parent understanding of the assessment process. We will walk parents through some of the statistics of reading struggles in the US and share what research tells us about early screening and identification. We will walk through the components of reading and discuss some easy at-home activities that can be done to help support student development in those areas. Parents will have a better understanding of all the skills that are associated with successful reading.

How to Choose an ELA Curriculum

Group F   Grade level: All Grades   Time of year: Any

Audience: Teachers, Literacy Specialists, School Leaders, District Administration

Let's explore some of the critical components when selecting an ELA Curriculum. We will walk through some key factors that may help you assess the programs you are currently using to teach ELA skills in your core classroom instruction and impact your decision in making a purchase to supplement or change your current classroom practices. Teachers and administration will have a better understanding of the critical components in teaching your students to read.

Science of Reading – Part 1 of 2

Group F   Grade level: All Grades   Time of year: Any

Audience: Teachers, Literacy Specialists, School Leaders, District Administration

Join us for a comprehensive exploration of the science of reading! We will demystify the science and understand the foundation of reading and how the science of reading movement emerged. We will look at the reading brain and explore the fascinating neural processes that make reading possible, as well as going beyond the basics and delve into the "Simple View of Reading" framework and Scarborough's Rope and see how they inform instruction. Through the building blocks of success we will learn the essential components of evidence-based reading instruction that lead to strong literacy skills.

Science of Reading – Part 2 of 2

Group F   Grade level: All Grades   Time of year: Any

Audience: Teachers, Literacy Specialists, School Leaders, District Administration

Ready to build strong readers? This webinar equips you with the essential tools! Join us for a deep dive into the science behind effective reading instruction. We'll explore two powerful models: The Simple View of Reading and Scarborough's Rope. In this session, you'll gain a deeper understanding of The Simple View of Reading and demystify how this framework breaks down essential reading skills into core components: word recognition and language comprehension. Learn how weaknesses in either area can impact overall reading success. We will unravel the intricate strands of Scarborough's Rope that make up a strong reader, while exploring the critical roles of phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, background knowledge, and more. We will discover how each component in these models impacts the reading process for the building blocks of success.

Consulting Sessions

Literacy Specialist Consulting

Group G   Grade level: All Grades   Time of year: Any

Audience: Teachers, Literacy Specialists, School Leaders

Spend 30 minutes with an EarlyBird Literacy Specialist analyzing your classroom dashboard data, discussing specific student profiles, or walking through instructional grouping with suggestions for targeted remediation for those low-scoring students. This is a time to discuss any of the information on the EarlyBird Dashboard, Knowledge Nest, or Next Steps Resources.