



For Literacy Coaches
and teachers of:

PreK-1,
Speech & Language,
Special Education,
Reading Recovery,
Title I,
Bilingual & ELL,
Music

Celebrate Language and Accelerate Kindergarten Literacy:

Higher Standards • Joyful Learning • Proven Strategies

Presented by award-winning kindergarten researcher and trainer

Nellie Edge

- **All Children Deserve High Standards for English Language Development:** Memorable Oral Language Fuels the Curriculum
- **Learn Powerful, Multisensory ABC & Phonics Immersion Strategies** that Challenge and Support Diverse Learners
- **Engage Parents as Partners:** Simple and Practical Ways to Multiply Your Teaching Effectiveness
- **Teach for Fluency with Handwriting and High-Frequency Words:** Use Active Brain-Friendly Literacy™ Strategies
- **Develop Creative Hands-On Literacy Centers to Engage Learners:** Children Love Authentic Reading and Writing Projects
- **Create a Joyful Writing to Read Classroom:** Daily Kid Writing Systematically Teaches Phonics Skills and the Process of Learning to Read
- **Begin and End the Day with Joyful Learning Rituals, Traditions, and Celebrations - Make Every Moment Count**

BEST PRACTICES FOR KINDERGARTEN AND EARLY LITERACY
Saturday Seminar Dates 2007

Feb. 10, 2007 - Phoenix, AZ

March 3, 2007 - Portland, OR

March 10, 2007 - Seattle, WA

April 14, 2007 - Denver, CO

Washington Clock Hours and Professional Development Credits available.



Celebrate Language and Accelerate Literacy with the SMILE Approach: Higher Standards. Joyful Learning . Proven Strategies

The **SMILE** approach to literacy is **systematic, multisensory and engaging** for young learners. It embraces and supports diverse learning styles and the wide range of language and literacy needs seen in most early-childhood classrooms. This joyful learning model is especially powerful for our learners who are more difficult to accelerate. In classrooms that incorporate **SMILE** principles, the entire class enjoys literacy experiences with quality literature, songs, poems, rhymes, and dances.

This invites them to relax, have fun, and feel a sense of belonging, while enhancing oral language skills and physical coordination. **Then we build on success through differentiated instruction that is active, motivating and appropriate for individual learners while fostering a love of language.** Our comprehensive instructional model acknowledges the social/emotional aspects of learning and children's inherent love of nature. **We celebrate the power of music, movement, sign language and the educational arts as translators of meaning.** Our teaching makes us smile and it makes children smile. It also delights the hearts of parents as they see their children's enthusiasm for learning increase. **Brain-friendly literacy™ always evokes a SMILE, thus our acronym:**

- **S**ystematic, scaffolded.
- **M**eaningful, multisensory, memorable, motivating.
- **I**ntegrated (with the arts, science and children's lives).
- **L**iteracy (literature and a love of language).
- **E**xperiences. Engaging ones!

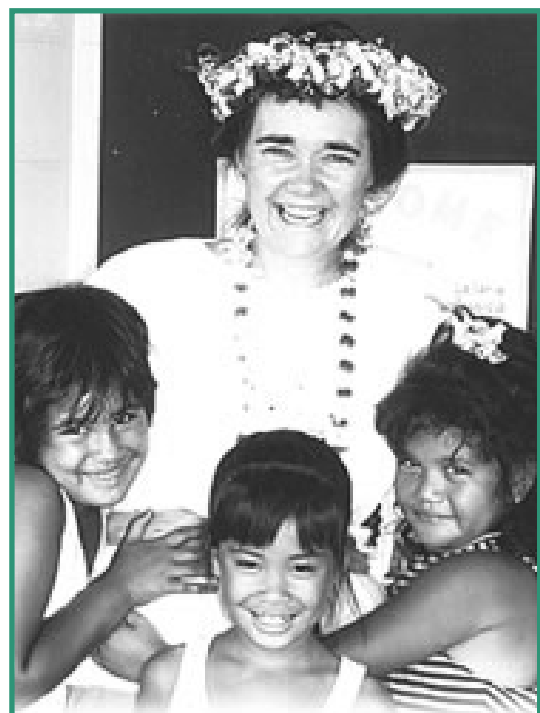
The **SMILE** instructional model assumes that **teachers' first concern is in creating a joyful community of learners and bonding with each child and every family.** We recognize the vital role of the emotions and parent collaboration in learning. Our teaching colleagues have proved that once we create a caring community and an engaging curriculum with parents as partners, **the levels of learning soar for all children.** The intrinsic reward of this type of meaning-centered learning is high motivation for children - and their teachers.

How do we provide challenging curriculum that honors childhood?

We create **beautiful, organized, language-intensive environments** that are **emotionally safe** and noncompetitive. We have **high expectations.** We **weave the educational arts** into all areas of our curriculum. Our children develop friendships. They learn to make choices and are involved in **meaningful projects.** As educators we are reflective, continuously learning how to provide the scaffolding needed for every child to build on success, every day. We teach systematically and intuitively. **We take advantage of how the brain learns best** - and we save time for serendipity.

These principles, within a loving, disciplined and joyful atmosphere, provide a foundation for excellence:

- **Kindergarten is for language:** Phonemic awareness is “language play – every day; books, and songs – all day long.” The single biggest kindergarten predictor of phonemic awareness and later reading success is still oral language development. We can be systematic in our teaching – and playful! We know the human body needs to move, the heart needs music, and the brain was created to learn through songs.
- **Engage “the heart of kindergarten”:** Create memorable rituals, traditions and celebrations of language that enhance learning. Weaving joy, personal meaning and depth into the learning community creates a love of learning.
- **Use multisensory ABC and phonics immersion strategies:** Children deserve emotionally engaging instruction that is also explicit, systematic and differentiated for their needs. Accelerate mastery of the alphabetic principal through singing, signing, writing and reading one consistent ABC/phonics song throughout the day with parent collaboration. Our action-research team demonstrated **phenomenal results**.
- **Involve parents as partners:** Multiply your teaching effectiveness. This is not an option. Parents want their children to be successful in school. Parents and teachers jointly share responsibility for educating their children. Inter-generational benefits result.
- **Create a joyful, writing-to-read classroom:** Support children as writers and artists from the first day of school. All kindergartners love to write, draw, and create their own books. Daily “kid writing” teaches reading. Children practice phonics in action. Art and writing are reciprocal thinking and symbol systems that honor each child’s voice and vision.
- **Awaken children’s love of nature:** Connect children with the natural world outside the classroom. Create a classroom of stargazers, rock collectors, tree experts, and animal and plant enthusiasts. Use children’s fascination with nature and their social connections to create a compelling reason to read and write.
- **Honor the vital role of play in children’s cognitive and social-emotional development.** Put learning in the children’s hands. Give children ownership, responsibility and choices in their learning. Make cooperative learning come alive through dramatic play, block building, group field trips and hands-on experiences. Challenge children to set high personal goals, empower them with “I can’s.” We are developing literacy – and –life skills.
- **Use “Brain-Friendly Literacy™” for handwriting and high-frequency word fluency:** Use auditory spelling strategies, name tickets, sentence building, singing, signing, “stamp and read books,” structured writing, dancing, and timed “brain games.” Create hands-on literacy centers where children use reading and writing for real purposes. Skillfully transition from “magical memory reading” to guided reading. Use the Neurological Impress Method (NIM) to build fluent independent readers. **Differentiate instruction for diverse learners.**



For complete essay, *The SMILE Approach to Accelerated Literacy*, see [www.nellieedge.com/articles and resources.htm](http://www.nellieedge.com/articles_and_resources.htm).

Accelerate Literacy with Your Beginning Readers and Writers

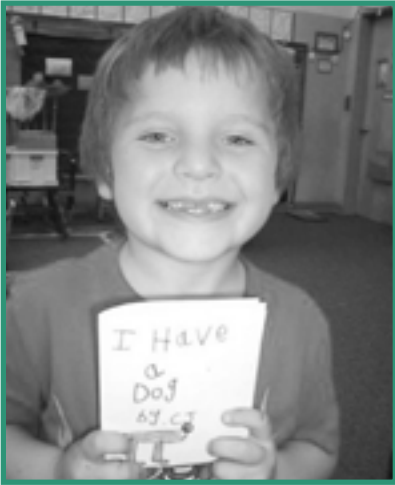


Photo Essay Enclosed

Celebrate Language and Accelerate Kindergarten Literacy: *Higher Standards • Joyful Learning • Proven Strategies*

- **Help All Children Reach High Standards of English Language Development**
- **Learn Powerful, Multisensory ABC/Phonics Immersion Strategies**
- **Learn to Teach Fluency with High-Frequency Words**
- **Develop Creative Hands-On Literacy Centers: Provide Authentic Reasons for Reading and Writing**
- **Systematically Organize for High-Literacy Gains: Support the Child Who is More Difficult to Accelerate**
- **Engage Parents as Partners: Multiply Your Teaching Effectiveness**
- **Create a Climate of Positive Discipline: Help Children Want to Do the Right Thing**



Rekindle your love and enthusiasm for teaching kindergarten.