

## Learn and Practice: Emergent Literacy for Complex Students

**Presented by: Susan Norwell, M.A • Hosted by: UF-Gainesville CARD**

### About the Presenter

**Susan Norwell** has worked with a wide array of students, including those with Rett syndrome, autism (ASD), and multiple disabilities. She has spent the last 28 years in private practice working primarily with children with ASD and girls who have Rett syndrome. Susan's current focus is in teaching literacy skills for children without verbal language and with significant disabilities while integrating augmentative communication and technology supports. She consults to various school districts on successful education of children with Rett syndrome and those with ASD and has presented workshops worldwide. Susan is a high-energy consultant known for her broad knowledge base as well as practical and creative ideas for furthering the learning of those with the most significant challenges.

### Training Description

**Target Audience:** Educators, therapists, & caregivers; **Instructional Level:** Beginner

This high energy and **hands-on** workshop is built on the principles of teach, show, model, practice, and review.

**On Day 1:** Attendees will learn the Six Building Blocks of Emergent Literacy as conceptualized by Patricia Cunningham and Dorothy Hall.

**On Day 2:** Attendees will learn the Four Blocks of the Balanced Literacy Model as conceptualized by Patricia and Jim Cunningham.

Extensive videos will demonstrate how to utilize this model with a variety of complex learners. Techniques will be embedded into activities that will be modeled for participants by the instructor to support communication, specific emergent literacy learning, and specific conventional literacy learning. Participants will then implement those strategies with each other while participating in hands-on literacy, communication, and instructional tasks. Real-time learning opportunities are provided to all attendees to not only build awareness and knowledge of literacy and communication teaching strategies, but also provide the needed practice in how to teach them. Of importance are the strategies for incorporating communication supports for all activities. Our complex students are typically nonverbal or not typically verbal and learning literacy skills without building communication skills is impossible. Participants will be coached by instructors as they work through the various activities and will be given feedback about their successes and questions. Possible goals and targets for staff training will be shared for each block. As we move through the blocks (i.e., 6 blocks on Day 1; 4 blocks on Day 2), this same learning model will be utilized. Day 2 of the workshop builds beautifully on Day 1 for emergent literacy learners. Come in comfortable clothes with a willingness to learn and have fun!

### Training Objectives

Participants will be able to identify and utilize:

- Two communication systems to model a book read aloud.
- Two communication partner strategies that support a small group language activity (everyday activity, play-based activity, book read aloud).
- Two low-tech literacy solutions to support writing skill development for the complex learner.
- The six blocks of the Emergent Literacy Model and give a learning activity/strategy for each.
- The four blocks of the Balanced Literacy Model and give a learning activity/strategy for each.
- ABC Flipbooks to support writing with a complex student.

### Date:

July 23 & 24, 2019  
9:00 am – 3:30 pm  
Registration begins at 8:00 am

### Location:

DoubleTree by Hilton - Gainesville  
3726 SW 40<sup>th</sup> Blvd.  
Gainesville, FL 32608

### Registration Deadline:

July 22, 2019  
Limited to first 40 participants

### Register Online:

<http://doepartnership.fmhi.usf.edu/trainings.html>

*Registration is mandatory.*

### Hotel Information:

[https://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/G/GNVGLDT-CAR-20190722/index.jhtml?WT.mc\\_id=POG](https://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/G/GNVGLDT-CAR-20190722/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG)

### For more information contact:

[card-training@ufl.edu](mailto:card-training@ufl.edu)  
or (352) 273-0581

### Directions:

For directions, click [HERE](#).

*Be sure to contact your ESE District Staff or Staff Development Contact to determine the process for receiving in-service.*