



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT 2026

Roots of Reading: Building Emergent Literacy Skills in Children

Explore evidence-based language and early literacy strategies for use with young children. The four workshops below focus on the foundational literacy skills that support children in learning to read.

These workshops were developed from the Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) Program, part of the Institute for Education Sciences:

Print Knowledge

Explore what print knowledge is, why it is essential for early literacy development, and strategies for teaching print concepts through small-group instruction.

Phonological Awareness

Discover how phonological awareness develops, why it matters, and examples of effective sound awareness instruction.

Vocabulary

Learn how young children develop vocabulary and explore ways to help children learn, understand, and use new words.

Oral Language

Examine the role of oral language in literacy development and learn ways to strengthen children's language skills through conversations and peer-to-peer interactions.

Audience: For preschool and kindergarten teachers and preservice teachers.

Time commitment: Each workshop is designed as a 2-hour session and can also be expanded into a two-part series. Workshops may be offered individually or as a complete series, and they can be taught in any order through discussion, hands-on learning, related readings, and extension activities.

ABOUT THE PRESENTER

Celine Martin is IRW's Literacy Coordinator and leads our early literacy programming. Before coming to IRW, she was an educator for 30 years in Washington and Hancock County, teaching many young learners how to read. Celine has a Bachelor's degree in Education with honors from the University of Maine Farmington.