

Early Registration Opportunity

31 Jan. - 1 Feb. | 2013
KELOWNA

A **SUMMIT** for Early Literacy Leaders: Scholars and Practitioners
Working Together | BCSSA and BCPVPA members; Literacy Coordinators; Aboriginal leaders; Special Education Leaders; ECE leaders; College and University leaders; Ministry leaders and others who have opportunities to enhance programs for vulnerable children



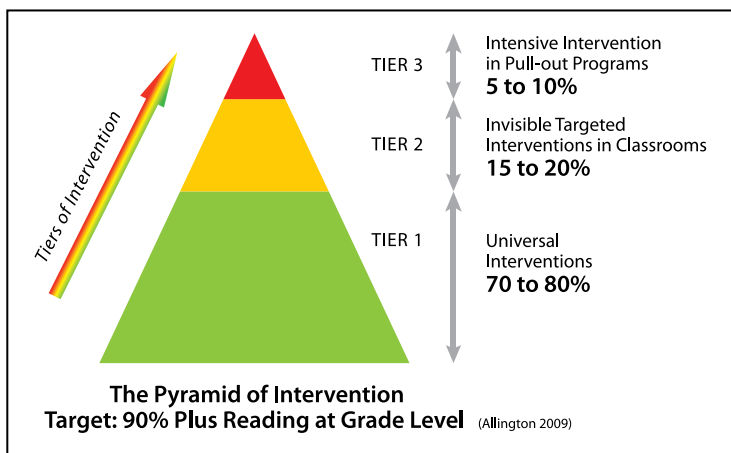
When Vulnerable Readers Thrive Dreams Come True

About 75% of BC children experience literacy success in primary classrooms with BC's innovative focus on play, inquiry, self-regulation and active learning. However, approximately 25% of our primary children are struggling still and falling further behind in the intermediate years (FSA, 2011). Our Summit is intended to complement the present provincial reading initiative underway.

Our guest scholars and researchers will tell us **emphatically** that **over 90%** of children in primary grades should, and could, be reading fluently by grade three. . . and they present compelling research to demonstrate it.

The SUMMIT Program: A Focus on Tier Two Interventions

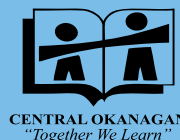
A Summit is 'the topmost level attainable.' That's what we want for our at-risk children! Our scholars and practitioners will explore reading intervention issues: participants will consider framework designs for meaningful BC interventions.



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SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 23



The Presenters: Scholars and Practitioners Working Together

Dr. Richard Allington

University of Tennessee



Richard Allington is well-known author and co-author of: *What Really Matters for Struggling Readers*; *What Really Matters for Response to Intervention*; *Learning to Read: Lessons from exemplary first-grade classrooms*; *Classrooms that Work: They can all read and write*; and *Schools that*

Work: All children readers and writers; as well as over 100 other articles and publications. He serves on numerous editorial boards for research journals. Past President of the International Reading Association and the National Reading Panel he has been an outspoken critic of failed government initiatives and a powerful advocate for the rights of children who struggle with reading.

Dr. Clyde Hertzman

HELP (Human Early Learning Partnership) at UBC



Clyde Hertzman, shares Richard's passion for advocacy for vulnerable children and will provide the BC context and an update on the state of vulnerable children in BC. He has provided BC schools with evidence about vulnerabilities in five developmental domains; Dr. Hertzman

has played a central role in creating a framework that links population health to human development, emphasizing the special role of early childhood development as a determinant of health. Congratulations Clyde on being named recipient of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research 2010 Canada's Health Researcher of the Year and the Canadian Institute of Child Health 2010 National Child Day Award.

Dr. Anne McGill-Franzen

University of Tennessee



Anne McGill-Franzen is Director of the Reading Department at the University of Tennessee and one of North America's foremost experts and authors on literacy development. The focus of her professional work has been struggling readers – including policy development that supports or constrains teachers efforts

to support children at-risk. She has been involved in many partnerships with districts and communities to improve reading achievement. She is author of *Kindergarten Literacy* and co-editor of the *Handbook of Reading Disabilities Research* and the recently released *Summer Reading: Closing the Rich/Poor Reading Achievement Gap*. She is also directing projects that build viable interventions through teacher-to-teacher collaboration and small group instruction for children who are behind their peers.

Dr. Janet Mort

Evaluating Classroom Programs Where Vulnerable Children Thrive



How do key leaders at all levels support, encourage, and ensure quality in early learning classrooms where vulnerable children will read and thrive? Play-based environments are essential in early learning environments (birth to age 8); at the same time, there are essential literacy skills that must be mastered by the end

of grade three to guarantee future school success. Where is the balance?

In the past seven years Janet has conducted 10 research studies in 23 BC school districts documenting programs that work for vulnerable children. As a primary teacher, principal and superintendent she was always known for innovation. Now a researcher, she will present her findings, advice and "elder" wisdom. Janet is Adjunct Professor at Vancouver Island University.

The SUMMIT is being sponsored in an innovative partnership between VIU (Vancouver Island University) Dean of Education Dr. Harry Janzen, and SD No. 23 (Central Okanagan) Superintendent Hugh Gloster.

⋮ The SUMMIT will be chaired by Terry Lee Beaudry (Assistant Superintendent) and Clara Sulz (Director of Instruction). SUMMIT submissions and presentations will be coordinated by Donna Kozak (Early Learning and Literacy Coordinator).

Presenters will address numerous related topics:

- A progress report about BC's vulnerable children.
- Our most vulnerable children and what they need.
- Recent research on successful interventions.
- Characteristics of a high quality play-based classroom where essential literacy skills are a high priority.
- Classroom designs where interventions are invisible.
- Revisiting the Primary Program: What literacy rigor might look like.
- Finding the middle ground between 'skill and drill' and 'joyful play'.
- Essential literacy skills defined.
- Essential literacy skills integrated into a literature-based approach.
- Appropriate assessments that inform instruction.
- The role of tracking in evidence-based instruction.
- Summer programs as interventions.



- The connections between special education and Tier Two interventions
- . . . and MORE arising from your inquiries and submissions.

You, the Participants: Practitioners and Early Learning Experts

Without you, early learning leaders, there will be no increased success for struggling readers. This Summit, therefore, will be organized in anticipation of your full involvement.

Scholarly research presentations will be based on key topics and questions that you propose prior to the event. Each scholarly presentation will be wrapped in debate, dialogue and discussion, then a return to our scholars with key questions that challenge you and may well challenge them.

British Columbia school districts have always been known for their innovations especially in the primary program. Part of the Summit will be a series of workshops where schools or school districts can present successful strategies or programs that have made a difference for vulnerable children.

We are inviting participants to submit proposals to be considered as part of the program. If there are too many proposals, the conference committee will select a balance in types of strategies, and presentations that best address the following criteria:

Workshop Submissions: Proposal to Present

1. The strategy (or program) is intended to improve success for children in the Tier Two category.
2. The strategy is applied mainly in the classroom environment.
3. There is evidence of success in the form of reduced vulnerability and/or improved achievement.
4. The strategy includes play and/or inquiry opportunities for children as well as literacy skill development.
5. The strategy is aligned with recent research
6. The strategy is original – not a published program.

Please submit your **Proposal to Present** described in one page, including the names and titles of presenter(s) organized within the six above-named categories. Email directly to Donna Kozak, SD No. 23 Early Learning and Literacy Coordinator by email: Donna.Kozak@sd23.bc.ca

Deadline for submissions is December 3rd, 2012.

Registration

[Click here to register.](#)

Payment is by credit card. The conference limit is 250 participants. The registration fee is \$350.00 plus HST, which includes coffee breaks and lunches on both days. The program will be offered on January 31st and February 1st from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. To ensure your space please register early.

Hotel Arrangements

The Delta Grand Hotel is holding a block of 100 rooms for conference participants starting at a cost of \$109. (plus tax). Contact the hotel directly at www.deltagrandokanagan.com or at 1 800 465 4651 to make your own arrangements.