



Faith Berens

2022 MassHOPE Homeschool and Family Discipleship Convention



SPEAKER WORKSHOPS

Laying a Foundation for Reading Comprehension in the Preschool Years

In this session, Faith discusses the ultimate goal of reading instruction: comprehension. She also explores various types of thinking and processing skills required for proficient comprehension. Faith shares tips, techniques, and strategies for developing the vocabulary of very young, as well as good habits of mind in order to lay a solid foundation for comprehension with our wee ones (up to age 5).

Phonemic Awareness: The Missing Ingredient in Reading Instruction

Do you have a child who just isn't getting phonics—or is struggling with beginning reading instruction? Or perhaps you have a child who has sloppy speech or doesn't seem to hear things correctly? Poor phonemic awareness could be partly to blame. This session provides parent-teachers with an understanding of phonemic awareness skills and how these skills (or lack thereof) impact a child's ability to become a proficient reader. Participants receive a phonemic awareness assessment that they can use at home, take part in interactive activities in order to "play" with phonemic awareness, and receive a list of curriculum, materials, and games that address these important, foundational skills.

SOS! How to Homeschool Students with Special Needs

This workshop offers practical direction and encouragement for families who are considering home education or for those who have already plunged into the scary waters of special education at home and are seeking assistance to navigate this realm. Faith shares resources for homeschooling special needs, diagnostic checklists for struggling learners, addresses common concerns homeschooling parents face (and how to navigate around them), and shares strategies for charting a course for success with your children who learn differently. **(Handouts available to download on website.)**

Reading Difficulties: Remediation Strategies & Techniques, Part 1 & 2

Do you have a student who is having reading difficulties? This session introduces the 5 Pillars of Reading: phonemic awareness, phonics (decoding and word recognition), fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Faith offers guidance for identifying the area and the level of your child's reading difficulty, and she also shares practical teaching tools, strategies, and techniques for remediating your child's reading struggles. Part 1 addresses decoding and fluency problems. Part 2 will cover addressing and remediating reading comprehension difficulties.

(Handouts available to download on website.)

High School at Home for Teens with Special Needs

This workshop addresses some of the challenges associated with teaching struggling and atypical learners at home in the high school years. Do you have questions such as "How do I award my child with special needs a diploma?" or "What do I do since my child with dyslexia can't read typical high school level material?" Faith discusses alternative coursework, specialized curricula and learning materials, assistive technology, transcript options, possible graduation guidelines, high school programs for special learners, and post-high school options. She also offers tips for navigating the process of applying for testing accommodations for College Board tests.

(Handouts available to download on website.)