



Camp ALEC

AAC • Literacy • Education • Communication

Presents:

Emergent Literacy Workshop

2 day intensive course

April 16-17 • 8:30am-4:00pm daily • Registration at 8:00am April 16
Registration is also available the evening before from 4pm - 6pm in lobby

Registration

Fees: \$395 professionals (\$345 parents) before March 1, 2026
\$425 professionals (\$395 parents) after March 1, 2026
Includes: course, continental breakfast and lunch daily
To register, visit: [visit our website www.campalec.com](http://www.campalec.com)

Conference and Lodging

Embassy Suites Cleveland Rockside
5800 Rockside Woods Blvd N
Independence, OH 44131
Reservations: (800) 315-1185 or
(216) 986-9900 or click on the logo to register



Rate: 2 DB Basic Non-smoking: \$149
King Basic non-smoking: \$139
Group code: 90c
Room Block Deadline: **March 19, 2026**
15 minutes from Cleveland International Airport

Questions?

Contact Gina Cunningham
Text only at: (248) 761-8759
Email: campalecinfo@gmail.com
www.campalec.com

Course materials will be made available at the workshop via a PBWorks wiki site using the email address you registered with. Bring a laptop or tablet to download these materials.

Course Description

This 2-day introductory intensive course will offer an instructional framework and practical approaches to address the emergent literacy learning needs of students with extensive support needs that include not being able to rely solely on speech to be heard and understood. The focus will be on comprehensive approaches to emergent literacy with an emphasis on application and use rather than skill mastery.

The course is open to all interested educators, related services personnel, parents, and caregivers concerned with supporting communication and literacy for students with extensive support needs that include not being able to rely solely on speech to be heard and understood.

Learning Objectives

At the end of this session, participants will be able to describe:

1. three or more distinctions between emergent and conventional literacy instruction.
2. three or more critical conditions of successful emergent literacy and communication instruction.
3. three or more ways to integrate symbolic communication intervention into emergent literacy instruction.

Our Presenters

Dr. Karen Erickson is the Director of the Center for Literacy and Disability Studies, and a professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill within the Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences. A part of Karen's literacy work focuses on assessment and instruction for individuals with significant disabilities. Karen has helped to develop Tar Heel Reader (now Monarch Reader), an online library of accessible stories for beginning readers along with many, many other initiatives.



You can find Karen at: (click on photo for link)



Dr. David Koppenhaver is Professor Emeritus from the Department of Reading and Special Education at Appalachian State University. David works with Karen Erickson researching the area of literacy for children with significant disabilities. David is co-founder of the Center for Literacy and Disability Studies at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill.



You can find Dave at: (click on photo for link)

DAVE'S LITERACY & DISABILITY SITE



Dr. Sofia Benson-Goldberg is an assistant professor in the Communication Disorders and Sciences program at the University of Oregon in the College of Education. Sofia received her PhD from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she worked at the Center for Literacy and Disability Studies under the mentorship of Dr. Karen Erickson. Sofia is passionate about improving access to reading and writing instruction for all individuals.



You can find Sofia at: (click on photo for link)



Workshop Schedule

Day 1:

7:45-8:30	Registration and Continental Breakfast
8:30-8:45	Introduction
8:45-9:30	The Link Between Literacy and Communication
9:30-10:15	Early Symbolic Communication Development
10:15-10:30	Break
10:30-12:00	Conditions for Effective Literacy Instruction
12:00-1:00	Lunch
1:00-2:15	Conditions for Effective Literacy Instruction
2:15-2:30	Break
2:30-3:45	Shared Reading
3:45-4:00	Wrap up and Final Questions

Day 2:

7:45-8:30	Continental Breakfast
8:30-9:15	Burning Questions Answered
9:15-10:30	Predictable Chart Writing
10:30-10:45	Break
10:45-12:00	Alphabet/Phonological Awareness
12:00-1:00	Lunch
1:00-2:15	Independent Writing
2:15-2:30	Break
2:30-3:15	Independent Reading
3:15-3:45	Putting It All Together
3:45-4:00	Wrap up and Final Questions

Learn more about our camp by watching
the **Camp ALEC Documentary** now
streaming on **Disney +**