



WORKSHOPS BY DR. CARRIE S. CUTLER

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Short Bio for Instructor:

Dr. Carrie Cutler is passionate about early childhood education and mathematics. She currently holds the position of clinical assistant professor of elementary mathematics education at the University of Houston. A sought-after presenter and award-winning university instructor, Carrie is a teacher of teachers. She regularly presents at local, state, and national conferences for mathematics, literacy, and early childhood education. Her new book, *Math-Positive Mindsets: Growing a Child's Mind Without Losing Yours* (Math Solutions, 2020) gives practical advice to parents and teachers who want to help children succeed in math by giving answers for over 100 of math's trickiest teaching topics. In addition to mathematics, Dr. Cutler is an expert in developmentally appropriate practice and early childhood topics as diverse as mindful movement, art, STEM, and authentic assessment for young children. Carrie loves conducting and learning from educational research but finds that her best teachers are her own eight children—ages 5 to 23.

PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN MATH WORKSHOPS

1. *Builders at Work: Tasks and Tools for Developing Preschoolers' Number Sense*

Description: To compute quickly and accurately in later grades, preschoolers need lots of practice putting together and pulling apart numbers. This session highlights part-part-whole ideas, break-apart partners, and number partitions to show how working flexibly with number lays the groundwork for computational fluency. We'll get hands-on with number composition and decomposition activities that encourage exploration and concept building before introducing purely symbolic representations. Join us to explore a range of open materials such as pan balances, counters, toothpicks, pattern blocks, linking cubes, stamps, foldables, stickers, beads, pipe cleaners, breakfast cereal and more to help teachers explore over a dozen concept-building tasks.

2. *Fired Up, Not Burned Out: Pre-K Math Centers that Ignite Learning*

Description: To learn math deeply, young children need time, materials, and intentional math experiences. Math centers can provide all three! You'll leave with 20+ center ideas

that are inexpensive but rich with developmentally appropriate mathematical content. Join us to get fired up about math centers!

3. *Ten Essential Math Skills to Develop in the Early Years*

Description: Counting is one of the hallmarks of early childhood math. But what else should I be teaching? Join us for activities, games, and lessons that can help our students build a foundation of math concepts and skills.

4. *Counting and Beyond: Making Preschool Math Fun and Engaging*

Description: I know I should be teaching more than just counting, but what topics are appropriate for preschool? Find out how measurement, algebra, geometry, and graphing support early learning in math. We'll keep it hands-on with lots of engaging activities like number sculptures, shishkebob patterns, and post-it note quilts.

5. *Using Picture Books to Teach Math*

Description: Learn a simple rubric for evaluating picture books that can be used in mathematics instruction. The rubric emphasizes accuracy, visual and verbal appeal, connections, audience, and the “wow” factor. We'll practice with the rubric, using my collection of 100+ picture books for participants to read and evaluate. We'll then brainstorm lesson ideas based upon the high-quality picture books they discover. I will also provide more than 20 literacy-based mathematics activities and an annotated bibliography of high-quality children's literature with mathematical content.

6. *There's a Book for That: Picture Books for Counting and Measurement*

Description: Learn how to use picture books to connect preschoolers to counting and measurement. I share 20+ books with accompanying hands-on activities your children will love. Get more math out of your reading time!

7. *Number, Geometry, and Measurement. Oh, My!*

Description: Find out how to plan focused time for learning mathematics in small groups rather than whole class by experiencing over 20 hands-on, developmentally appropriate math tasks for preschoolers, focusing on number, geometry, and measurement.

8. *Pump Up the Volume: Hands-On, Minds-On Measurement Tasks*

Description: To learn measurement concepts deeply, children must be actively doing, experimenting, and performing—not passively observing or filling out a worksheet. You'll leave this session with a fistful of real-world tasks for time, money, length, capacity, area, temperature and weight.

9. *Here's One for the Little Guy: Fitting Math into the Early Childhood Curriculum*

Description: Uncertain how to squeeze math into an already crowded day? Learn five easy principles and plenty of lesson ideas for integrating worthwhile mathematics with students' natural curiosity, literacy, assessment, and play.

10. *Get a Move On: Movement-Infused Math for Preschool and Kindergarten*

Description: Kids learn best when their brains and bodies are active. Integrating movement with math subtracts stress, adds fun, and maximizes brain function. Join us to learn the research behind movement in the classroom and over twenty games and activities to pump up the movement in your math lessons.

11. *Helping Parents Help Kids Love Math: Math-Positive Games and More!*

Turn timid parents into engaged partners with simple take-home games, family math night activities, and encouraging books and videos that make every parent a math-positive partner.

MATH SESSIONS FOR PARENTS

1. *Give Your Child Mathematical Power* (one-hour workshop, tailored to parents of PreK and Kindergarten children)

Description: Parents wishing to help their children acquire math skills may feel like they don't have the resources or expertise to supplement what children learn in preschool. But you don't need a degree in math or a fat wallet to enrich your child's learning. You probably already have the *stuff* for hands-on, age-appropriate math activities that you can do around the kitchen table or cruising along in the minivan. Dr. Carrie Cutler, an expert in early childhood mathematics and professor of mathematics education at the University of Houston, will share games and activities you and your child will enjoy doing together. From Shoelace Shapes to Snowball Hunts, join us to learn how you can build your child's mathematical power.

2. *What's the Big Idea? Easy Explanations for Tricky New Approaches to Teaching Math* (one-hour workshop which can be extended to a series, tailored to parents of PreK through 1st grade children)

Description: What in the world is a rhombus? When are these kids going to memorize their number facts? Why are there so many word problems? Recent reforms in math education have left many parents stumped. But don't despair, Dr. Cutler, a teacher of math teachers and mom of 8, explains how these changes are important steps in improving mathematics achievement. She'll share easy tips for understanding place value, regrouping (which we used to call borrowing), fact fluency, mental math, and more. Join us to overcome your math anxiety and feel confident in helping your child succeed in math.

3. *Growth Mindset for Math-Positive Parents* (one-hour workshop for parents of children of all ages)

Description: Is a person *born* good at math? Is there such thing as a math gene? How can our attitudes affect our learning? The brain's response to mistakes differs depending on our mindset. You'll leave this workshop with knowledge of brain research that will change the way you talk with your child about math. Join us to learn how to think, act, and speak the Growth Mindset way.

4. *You Have What It Takes: Easy Ideas for Growing Your Child's Capacity to Learn* (one-hour workshop tailored to parents of PreK and Kindergarten children)

Description: This humorous, interactive workshop gives parents strategies to put into practice immediately. Find out how to use simple everyday interactions with objects such as the key pad at the checkout to familiarize your preschooler with digits. Get the most out of bedtime stories as we share fun ways to spark a love of reading in your infant and develop good reading habits for the entire family. Learn how to leverage minivan chat time to build toddlers' vocabulary and language. Most importantly, build confidence in your ability to support your child in learning and growing. You have it in you!

5. *Foundations for Mathematical Fluency: More than Memorization* (one-hour workshop tailored to parents in PreK through grade 2)

Description: Memorizing math facts was once a hallmark of arithmetic classrooms, but today's approaches to fluency are much broader. Learn the phases of math fact mastery and find out how efficiency, accuracy, and selecting an appropriate strategy all work together to build fluency. This session shares insights for number composition and decomposition, place value, mental math, and more. Join us to find out how to support your child in becoming a mathematical thinker, not a math memorizer.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

"I Think You Like to Tell People What to Do": Lessons Tyler M. Taught Me

Description: Workshops, professional conferences, and journal articles are key to improving our teaching, but when we listen to our students, we learn more about our teaching than we might like. In this keynote, I share how one comment from a first grader changed my whole philosophy of teaching—for the better.

*I am also happy to customize a workshop based on the current needs of your faculty and staff. If you've been struggling to find a way to broach a difficult subject or you've talked 'til you're blue in the face and no one seems to listen, let my humor, passion, and experience help your parents and teachers understand **and grow**.*