



Dr. Carrie S. Cutler
Create the Teachable Moment.

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 and manages a YouTube channel and website packed with resources for parents and teachers. Her new book, *Math-Positive Mindsets: Growing a Child's Mind Without Losing Yours* gives practical advice to parents and teachers who want to help children succeed in math. Carrie's YouTube math activity videos have been viewed over 14 thousand times. Carrie loves conducting and learning from educational research but finds that her best teachers are her own eight children—ages 5 to 23.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WORKSHOPS

1. *Growth Mindset for Teachers: How to Prevent Fear and Low Expectations from Limiting Your Potential*

Description: Mistakes make your brain grow! Join us to learn how the latest brain research can inform your work with children and your own professional development. We'll watch videos from Stanford researchers Carol Dweck and Jo Boaler as they explain the brain's amazing elasticity and the power of hard work to improve achievement in math and other areas. Interactive activities and role plays will help you reframe your thinking, classroom interactions, and language to adopt a growth mindset for your children and your teacher-self.

2. *Three Act Tasks: Mathematical Modeling plus Cultural Relevance Makes Sense*

Description: Is your math classroom just blah? Sick of the same old worksheets and problem sets? Three Act Tasks are a hot, new approach to culturally relevant problem-based instruction through math modeling. Find out what a task is, how to locate free tasks from the University of Houston, and easy ways to implement them in your math class. We'll have a blast with piñatas, Duvalin, and dumplings as we use mathematical modeling to build understanding of number.

3. *Listen Up! How Number Talks Can Build Your Students' Numeracy, Mathematical Thinking, and Confidence in Mathematics*

Description: Number talks are short, intentional 5- to 15-minute conversations about mental math strategies for computation, number composition and decomposition, place value, and more. These brief interactions between teacher and students build mathematical vocabulary, curiosity, and flexibility. They help students understand that numbers can be pulled apart and put together in all sorts of ways. Find out how to orchestrate number talks that will add up to deep understanding for your students.

4. *Don't Be Obtuse! Games and Lessons for Building Mathematical Vocabulary*

Description: By “square” do we mean a shape or a number? Is “right” the term for an angle or a hand or an answer? In this session, you’ll discover why your students struggle with vocabulary and leave with a fistful of engaging, meaning-filled activities to help learners understand and use the powerful language of mathematics.

5. *Three Easy Steps to Differentiated Math Instruction*

Description: One-size-fits-all, whole-group approaches are largely ineffective in differentiating for today’s diverse classrooms. You’ll leave this session with strategies for giving targeted instruction at each student's level. Join us to learn how to use menus, tiered lessons, and small groups to meet the needs of all learners.

6. *No More Tears: Performance Tasks as an Alternative to Paper and Pencil Tests*

Description: Had it up to here with paper and pencil tests? Performance tasks can engage small groups in meaningful assessment while allowing for individual accountability. You’ll leave this session with six ready-to-use performance tasks, experience in creating your own tasks, and 83 engaging ideas to get you started using performance tasks in your classroom.

7. *Gift Wrap and Roller Coasters: Calculators for Real World Problem Solving*

Description: Give your students the gift of problem solving as they ride the calculator roller coaster. You’ll leave this session with thrilling activities that show how a calculator enhances problem solving, reasoning, and real-world connections.

8. *Spicing It Up: A Five Step Recipe for Adding Flavor to Bland Word Problems*

Description: Are your students tired of the application word problems given at the bottom of the textbook page? You’ll leave this session with a fistful of “good” word problems created by you! Learn five easy revision strategies that transform plain old word problems into worthwhile mathematical tasks. Your students will eat them up!

9. *Get the Picture: Connecting Children to Mathematics Through Books*

Description: Children's literature, thoughtfully selected and meaningfully shared, can provide rich contexts for mathematics learning. Join us to learn how to integrate picture books with math. You'll leave with a list of our favorite titles, simple station ideas, and concept-building lessons that you can try out on Monday.

10. *Putting It Together: Activities for Understanding Number Composition and Decomposition*

Description: To compute quickly and accurately in later grades, young children should spend much of their time putting together and pulling apart different numbers. You'll leave this session with more than a dozen classroom-ready activities for number partitions, break-apart partners, part-part-whole tasks and more.

11. *Get a Move On: Movement-Infused Math for Preschool through Second*

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.

12. *Communicating with Parents: We're All on the Same Side*

Description: Preschool is the best time to lay positive foundations for home/school relations. This session offers suggestions for back-to-school events, parent conferences, and everyday teacher-parent interactions. The presenter will also give ideas for overcoming barriers to communication. Come learn how to build powerful partnerships between home and school.

13. *Developmentally Appropriate Practice: Guidelines for Ensuring Your Expectations Are Realistic Yet Challenging*

Description: Teaching practices should attend to the child as an individual, be aligned with his age and level of development, and responsive to his interests and cultural background. This is a tall order! Join us to learn what DAP is and how it informs your work. We'll discuss developmental milestones, expectations for learners, and setting up a DAP classroom.

14. *Schedules, Routines, and Transitions. Oh, My! Developmentally Appropriate Classroom Environments*

Description: Are you tired of telling children to be quiet, to sit still, to hurry up, and to slow down? Your schedule, routines, and expectations can make a classroom joyful or stressful for your children and for you! Join us to learn what DAP is and how it informs your work. We'll contrast photos of organized classrooms and some that aren't so great

as we discover what makes an environment DAP. You'll leave this workshop with practical suggestions for routines and schedules, classroom organization, attention getters, and creative songs and movement activities to facilitate transitions. Dr. Cutler's humor and compassion will help you re-discover the joy of a child-centered approach to teaching.

15. *Movement in the Early Childhood Classroom*

Description: Kids gotta move! Find out how to incorporate movement into transitions, routines, and all areas of the curriculum. We'll share 15+ developmentally appropriate ideas for improving children's focus, attention, and physical development through integration and carefully planned movement centers. Even the campus music and movement teacher will come away from this workshop with lots of new ideas for helping kids learn to move and move to learn.

FOR PARENTS

16. *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.

17. *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 1st and 2nd 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.

18. *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.

19. *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!

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

20. *"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 teachers understand and grow.