



## 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 works as a clinical assistant professor of elementary mathematics education at the University of Houston where she teaches preservice teachers how to teach mathematics. A sought-after presenter and award-winning university instructor, her forthcoming book, *Math-Positive Mindsets: How to Build a Child's Mind Without Losing Yours* (Math Solutions, tentatively 2019) gives practical tips to empower parents with persistence, patience, math vocabulary, and reasoning skills to help children succeed in math. 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 learning from educational research but finds that her best teachers are her own eight children—ages 3 to 21.

### 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.

### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MATH 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 Has Never Been More Fun or Meaning-Filled*

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 problem-based instruction through math modeling. Find out what a task is, how to locate free tasks online, and easy ways to implement them in your math class. We'll have blast with a hungry cookie monster, a tall guy and his family, and much more as we use mathematical modeling to build understanding of number.

3. *Listen Up! How Number Talks Can Build Your Students' 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.

*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.*