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* gives practical advice to parents and teachers who want 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 conducting and learning from educational research but finds that her best teachers are her own eight children—ages 5 to 23.

GENERAL EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKSHOPS

1. *Preschool Discipline and Guidance: Creating Environments Where Children (and Teachers) Can Be Happy and Healthy*
   Description: Why are they running in the classroom? Pinching during circle time? Bored during read-alouds? In this interactive session, we'll learn how to adjust the environment to head off challenging behaviors before they start, use children's literature to initiate conversations about social and emotional development, and identify and document developmental red flags.

2. *Superior Circle and Sensational Calendar: Simple Adjustments for Getting the Most Out of Whole Group Instruction*
   Description: Learn tips, routines, songs, and fingerplays for taking circle time from boring and tedious to engaging and meaningful. We'll talk about scheduling, pacing, ensuring participation, even seating! In addition, we'll discover ways to update calendar time to make it

developmentally appropriate. Learn how to build children's number sense, counting, patterning, listening, attention, and more. Don't wait! Make circle time great!

3. *STEM for Infants and Toddlers: Putting Little Problems in Their Way*
   Description: It's never too early for children to begin to make sense of the world around them. You'll leave this session with 20+ play-based STEM activities to encourage DAP science explorations such as looking, grasping, listening, transporting, sorting, stacking, and more. Join us to learn how putting little problems in the way can inspire STEM learning among bottle-toting babblers. Your future engineers and mathematicians are ready. Are you?

4. *Science and Engineering for Preschoolers: Pulleys, Ramps, and a New Chair for Baby Bear*
   Description: Young children are capable of engineering—it just needs to be kid-centered and inquiry-driven. Join us to learn how to pump up the engineering on the playground and support children as they "use stuff to make stuff that does stuff" (Heroman 2017). We'll tinker with pulleys, design ramps, and engineer a pet carrier that holds five pounds. And we'll learn important engineering design principles in the process.

5. *Planning and Carrying Out Preschool Science Investigations*
   Description: Are you doing science *for* your children or supporting them as they carry out investigations? How do you know what science is appropriate for preschool? What materials can preschoolers use to learn science? Join us to learn about Science Eyes, the Observation Station, and how to get the most science out of the sensory table. It's STEM for the sippy cup crowd.

6. *Technology that Builds Brains: Coding, Aps, and More!*
   Description: Unsure about how much time children should spend using technology, what apps and websites are best for teaching and creativity, and what is meant by coding? Then this is the workshop for you! In this session, we'll look at recommendations from the Fred Rogers Institute, the National Association for the Education of Young Children, and the National Science Teachers Association to learn best practices in incorporating technology into preschool. Bring your laptop, tablet, or phone. We're going wireless!

7. *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.

8. *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.

9. *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.

10. *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.

11. *Integrating Art into the Preschool Classroom*
    Description: The process of creating increases children's confidence, motor skills, and emotional well-being. Join us to experience over 20 process-oriented, developmentally appropriate art projects for children ages 2-5. Don't forget to wear your grubbies; we're going to get messy!

12. *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.

PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN MATH WORKSHOPS

13. *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.

14. *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! Learn how to organize your math centers to get the most out of children's play and exploration while offering structured learning experiences. We'll discuss integrating math with children's literature and other content like art and fine motor. Learn how the teacher can "be a center" too. 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!

15. *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.

16. *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.

17. *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.

18. *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.

19. *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.

20. *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.

21. *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.

22. *All for Math and Math for All! Answers to Common Questions about Teaching Preschool Math and Activities that Help*
    Description: What in the world is a rhombus? How high should preschoolers be able to count? What is the best way to teach math to squirmy 3-year-olds? Join Dr. Cutler for clear, simple explanations to these questions and many more. You'll learn simple tips for centers, whole group lessons, and books that make math come alive. We'll save time for your specific questions, too!

23. *More Math! Less Stress! Fun Centers and Games for PreK-2nd Grade*
    Math doesn't have to be scary or hard. Join us to learn 15+ games and centers you can do with simple items you probably already have on hand like playdough, buttons, straws and more. You'll learn simple tips for setting up centers and using games to keep math time joyful.

WORKSHOPS 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 1st through 3rd 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 2nd through 5th grades)
   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 teachers understand and grow.*