

# Layers of Writing Development

**PRESENTED BY****Michelle Bence & Dr. Miriam Ramzy****SERIES SESSIONS**

Date	Time
September 18, 2023	4:00 PM - 5:30 PM
October 04, 2023	4:00 PM - 5:30 PM
October 17, 2023	4:00 PM - 5:30 PM
October 30, 2023	4:00 PM - 5:30 PM
November 08, 2023	4:00 PM - 5:30 PM

**LOCATION****Online****FEE****\$30.00****QUESTIONS?****Contact Us:****[crc-register@arpdc.ab.ca](mailto:crc-register@arpdc.ab.ca)  
[403-291-0967](tel:403-291-0967)****REGISTER ONLINE****Visit our website to register:  
[crcpd.ab.ca](http://crcpd.ab.ca)**

## Learning Opportunity

Target Audience: K-6 teachers, educational assistants, pre-service teachers and administrators are encouraged to attend.

Join Michelle Bence and Dr. Miriam Ramzy for a 5-part series on the Layers of Writing. During each session, we will share the research pertaining to the layers, principles that can guide how we structure our programs, and offer suggestions for practice to help situate writing instruction in a purposeful environment. Ties to the ELAL Curriculum will be embedded throughout to help clarify the purpose of each element of writing development.

### Session 1: Overview of the Layers of Writing

In our first gathering, we will provide an overview of how writing develops. We will share a Layers of Writing framework, explaining how the layers build upon each other. We will discuss the different roles the layers play that facilitate and enhance *flow*.

### Session 2: The Foundations of Developing Writers

This second session will target what are often considered the foundations of writing: Handwriting and Spelling. We will unpack the role of these layers in supporting written production and output.

### Session 3: Sentence Structures and Vocabulary

Together, let's dig into how sentence structure develops from simple to complex helping writers better express their ideas. We will also look at our first category of vocabulary, descriptive language, and how we can use these types of words to build out more complex sentences.

#### **Session 4: Text Structure and Vocabulary**

The role of text structure, and the academic vocabulary that we can embed within, will be explored in this session. Looking at Tier 2 academic vocabulary, and the most common text structures in school, we will share ways in which we can scaffold writing practice, for all students, including reluctant writers.

#### **Session 5: Pulling it all Together through The Writing Process**

Finally, we will conclude the series by looking at how The Layers of Writing can come together in a purposeful writing environment, where all students experience support and success. Mirrored with reading development, when students can practice the layers in context, we support transfer within and across the disciplines.

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## **Presenters**

### **Michelle Bence**

Michelle Bence's passion is early literacy. She is an enthusiastic educator with over 18 years of teaching experience. Over the past few years, Michelle has worked extensively with several school boards in Alberta, investigating professional teacher learning and evidence-based early literacy practice. Currently, Michelle is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Calgary, examining the connection between oral language development and early literacy acquisition.

### **Dr. Miriam Ramzy**

Dr. Miriam Ramzy works with a leading school division in Alberta. The focus of her education, teaching practice, and professional development has been on early learning and literacy. Miriam has her PhD from the University of Calgary; her doctoral work looked at early literacy learning in a grade one setting, with an emphasis on writing instruction, and the role of printing and word study. Her passion for supporting teachers in building powerful literacy classrooms, where all learners experience success, drives her work.

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## **Registration Notes**

All session times are mountain time.

This series will be recorded, and available for 30 days.



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