

Structured Word Inquiry (SWI) in Early Literacy Instruction



Presenters:
Pete Bowers
&
Carolee Fucigna



While SWI instruction can inform literacy instruction at all ages, the issue about SWI for literacy instruction from the start is one that is of particular interest (and some controversy) at the moment. This upcoming 5-session course will be our 3rd we've presented together. Like all of Pete's PD this course offers lots of time for practical practice, but also looks at the theory and research behind this work. For a sense of the nature of this course, see this note from Carolee:

*From an early age, children are interested in, and developing theories about, words and how writing works. Think of the times you've come across a "juicy" word in a read-aloud or been asked by a preschooler, "What does that (word) mean?" or "How do you spell ____?" Just like bugs, vehicles, or relationships, words can be a rich source of inquiry, wonder, and deeper exploration for young children. As an early childhood educator for over 40 years, I was initially skeptical that something like Structured Word Inquiry would be developmentally appropriate for my students, but the realization that the heart of the process is **co-inquiry with the children** launched me on a journey that transformed both my own understanding of our language, and my teaching practice. Co-researching words and the English language with pre-kindergarteners required me to have both an image of the young child as capable, and an accurate understanding of how our language is logically structured. One of my biggest discoveries was that, contrary to what many believe, English is actually a very logical and well-ordered language—so much so that it is an ideal candidate for co-investigations and scientific inquiry. I was particularly struck by the excitement, and even joy, my students brought to their investigations and their growing capacity as word "noticers."*

Come join Dr. Pete Bowers, the author of Structured Word Inquiry, and myself, for 5 study sessions to learn about the nature of word inquiry with young children.

-Carolee Fucigna,
Former PreK teacher at The Nueva School

5-Session Early SWI Course (10hrs)

Cost: \$300 USD / \$380 CAD or AUD

North America Dates/times

- Wednesdays: Mar 31, April 7, 14, 21 & 28
8 pm - 10 pm (EST), 5 pm - 7 pm (PST)

Australia (Melbourne) Dates/times

- Thursdays:
Apr. 1 (11 am)
Apr 8, 15, 22, 29 (10 am) (time change due to DST)

This course targets educators working with children from pre-school to Grade 2

Peter Bowers, PhD, is a researcher, teacher and literacy consultant. He coined phrase '[structured word inquiry](#)' in his vocabulary intervention (Bowers & Kirby, 2010) and is the Founder of WordWorks Literacy Centre.

Carolee Fucigna was a master Pre-School teacher at the Nueva School near San Francisco for years before encountering SWI. Initially very skeptical of this work in Pre-School, she became deeply engaged with this work and continues to support efforts for SWI with this population since retiring.

See videos of Early SWI with your presenters:

Carolee ([Video 1](#), [Video 2](#)) and with Pete ([Video 1](#), [Video 2](#))

Click [HERE](#) to email Pete and register by email.