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If you have questions or need additional information, you can reach us at 877.485.1973 or info@nifdi.org.



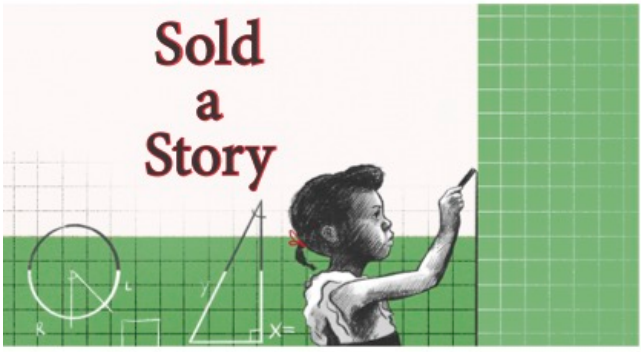
Registration Open for 53rd National Direct Instruction Conference and Institutes, July 26-30, 2027

Registration for the 53rd National DI Conference is open! Plan to join educators from around the world at the Graduate Hotel in Eugene, Oregon, July 26-30, 2027! The conference offers training in a wide range of Direct Instruction programs, as well as comprehensive institutes for instructional leaders, coaches, and professional development specialists.

The opening keynote will be presented by Laura Doherty, President and CEO of the Baltimore Curriculum Project (BCP) since 2012. BCP operates six schools serving over 3,000 students as conversion charter schools. In 2026, BCP celebrated its 30th anniversary and the 30th year of using Direct Instruction programs. Laura has deep roots in Direct Instruction, coming to the University of Oregon in 1994. Her story is inspirational, motivating, and insightful. On Wednesday morning, education consultant, author, and podcast producer Dr. Zach Groshell will present a special keynote. Zach is a leading voice in the science of learning and a fierce proponent of Direct Instruction.

No matter what your job title is–principal, supervisor, literacy coach, teacher, paraprofessional, professor, or something else–the National DI Conference has something for you. Plan on coming to Eugene this summer, take advantage of the beautiful location, and take part in the most comprehensive offering of Direct Instruction training and information available—anywhere!

Register now and save $100!
To download a brochure and register, click here.



Sold a Story, Season 2 Episodes 3 and 4 Released

Episodes 3 and 4 of the American Public Media Podcast Sold a Story have been released.

Episode 3, *The Forgotten Experiment,* focuses on Project Follow Through. Host Emily Hanford reports in great detail the origins and results of the largest educational experiment in history. The podcast features the dramatic success of Direct Instruction and the lack of dissemination of the results. The description from the website states:

> *"Zig Engelmann gets the chance of a lifetime: Put Direct Instruction to the test in one of the largest education experiments ever conducted. The results could have changed the direction of American education. Instead, they're contested — and ultimately cast aside."*

A companion article to the podcast is available here.

Episode 4, *What Can You Do for My Black Children?*, chronicles the story of Wesley Elementary School and its dynamic leader, Thaddeus Lott. Wesley is located in Acres Homes, a poor, Black neighborhood in Houston, Texas. The combination of Lott's leadership, strong training support, dedicated instructors, and Direct Instruction transformed Wesley into a high-performing school.

Here is the Sold a Story home page link: https://features.apmreports.org/sold-a-story/

Direct Instruction Perspectives Substack Launched

NIFDI President Kurt Engelmann released the first post of his new Substack, *Direct Instruction Perspectives.*

In his initial post, Kurt writes:

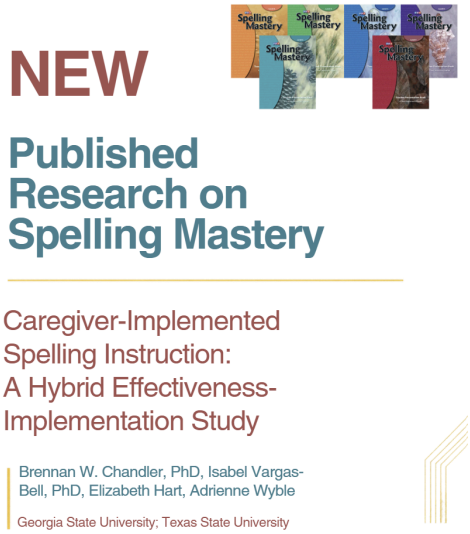
> *I am excited to announce a new Substack: Direct Instruction Perspectives on Education! The Substack will address issues that are specific to effective instruction as well as broader issues in the field of education.*

He goes on to write:

> *The initial posts to this Substack are free to all. Subsequent posts will include freely accessible posts as well as posts accessible only through a paid subscription. Subscription proceeds will be used to support the work of the National Institute for Direct Instruction.*

Please read, react, and spread the word about this important new resource!

New Research on Spelling Mastery Published



Dr. Brennan Chandler and his team's latest study is out in School Psychology Review!

Dr. Chandler writes:

> *In this randomized experimental pilot study, students whose caregivers delivered Spelling Mastery significantly outperformed the wait list-control group on standardized spelling, even with modest dosage (~two 15-minute lessons per week over 10 weeks). Spelling Mastery is a Direct Instruction program and, in our recent meta-analysis of students with or at risk for learning disabilities, the only program with multiple replicated studies showing positive effects. What could happen if schools prioritized explicit, evidence-based spelling instruction (beyond a strictly phonics-based program) during the school day?*

Read it here: **https://buff.ly/NPecID2**.

The National Institute for Direct Instruction is offering remote training for Spelling Mastery levels in January. See below for additional information.

NIFDI Offers Remote Spelling Mastery

Levels A and B Training-January 13



Join us on January 13, 2027, for a remote training on Spelling Mastery (SM) Levels A and B. The skills taught in Levels A-B are equivalent to grade 1 and 2 spelling knowledge goals. Here is a link to the placement test. Administer it to your students to determine which level of the program is appropriate for them.

Spelling Mastery Level A (SMA) and Spelling Mastery Level B (SMB) teach students spelling skills through two interwoven strategies: the phonemic strategy for beginning spellers and the whole-word approach to teach common words that cannot be taught through the phonemic strategy. SMA teaches the sound-symbol strategy (phonemic) for spelling simple, regularly spelled words to provide spellers with generalizations for spelling many words and word parts. SMA uses the whole-word strategy for teaching a set of high-frequency, irregularly spelled words that do not fit generalizations. SMB expands the sound-symbol strategy to more difficult, regularly spelled words and increases the number of irregularly spelled words that students spell.

You'll learn and practice effective delivery techniques, correction procedures, mastery and testing standards, and remediation strategies.

aRegister Here

Remote Spelling Mastery Levels C-F Training Available-January 20



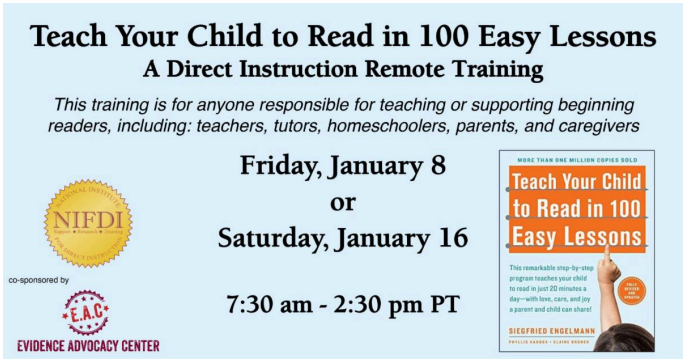
Join us on January 20, 2027, for a remote training on Spelling Mastery (SM) Levels C through F. The skills taught in Levels C-F are equivalent to grades 3-6 spelling knowledge goals. Here is a link to the placement test. Administer it to your students to determine which level of the program is appropriate for them.

Spelling Mastery Levels C through F teach students spelling skills through three interwoven strategies: the phonemic strategy, the whole-word approach to teach common words that cannot be taught through the phonemic strategy, and the morphographic approach for advanced spellers.

In this training, you'll learn and practice effective delivery techniques, correction procedures, mastery and testing standards, and remediation strategies.

Register Here

Teach Your Child to Read in 100 Easy Lessons Remote Trainings Announced



Join us for a one-day remote training on *Teach Your Child to Read in 100 Easy Lessons* (TYC). Participants will learn how to deliver TYC lessons effectively, apply mastery criteria, use correction procedures, and implement appropriate remediation strategies.

TYC provides a carefully sequenced progression of foundational reading skills that takes beginning readers from early phonemic and decoding skills to increasingly complex reading tasks. When implemented with fidelity, TYC advances students from beginning reading skills toward reading proficiency at approximately a 1.5 grade-level equivalent.

This training is relevant for anyone responsible for teaching or supporting beginning readers, including:

- Classroom teachers
- Reading interventionists and special education teachers
- Tutors and high-impact tutoring programs
- Parents, caregivers, and early childhood educators
- Educational and literacy organizations serving beginning or struggling young readers

Participants will practice delivering and receive feedback on TYC lessons using the prescribed lesson routines.

Two session dates to choose from! Click a button below to learn more and register.

January 8th **January 16th**

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