

Nellie Edge Online Seminar (NEOS) #1  
**Meaningful Practicum Suggestions**

University Credit Option – Multisensory ABC and Phonics Immersion

- ❖ **15 hours of practicum project work is required for each unit of credit.  
Nellie Edge Online Seminar #1 may be taken for up to 3 units of credits.**

**Choose any one suggestion to develop an in-depth practicum or any combination of meaningful projects that would allow you to apply the skills shared in this seminar in the most useful and relevant way.** How can you use the content of this Nellie Edge Online Seminar to make your teaching more effective and powerful to the lives of your students? What do you want to be doing in your classroom one week and one month from now as a result of this seminar?

**Dr. Lifson at the University of the Pacific always allows teachers to design their own practicum project** that meets their unique teaching and learning needs. **You DO NOT NEED to write a 3-page paper** unless that is a meaningful project and would be the best way for you to improve your teaching of ABC Phonics.

**1. Preview the Self-Assessment Guidelines and the SMILE Approach to Joyful Accelerated Literacy**

Use these detailed documents to assess your current teaching of ABC Phonics skills. What are your goals and what specific steps will you take to implement a more systematic, multisensory approach to ABC Phonics skills? Take the challenge: “20 Days to 20 Letters and Sounds” as seen in the online seminar and in the Nellie Edge blog [20 Days to Mastery with 26 Letters and Sounds!](#) Document observations and evaluate.

**2. Study the ASL Instructional Videos from Sign2Me: Learn To Fingerspell and Sign**

Practice with the videos until you are confident fingerspelling a-z and signing the key phonics symbols. Download the free Family Reference Chart to use for frequent reviews, or use the book, *ABC Phonics: Sing, Sign, and Read!* by Nellie Edge (available at your library or from Sign2Me on Amazon).

**3. Develop Your “Parents as Partners” Program**

Use or adapt the parent letters for the ABC/Phonics program and develop a plan for how you will encourage parent involvement in *Multisensory ABC and Phonics Immersion*. How will you involve families in nightly review of the *ABC Phonics: Sing, Sign, and Read!* song by Nellie Edge to accelerate your teaching effectiveness? Some schools actually present the program to parents when they register their child for kindergarten in the spring. Parents are encouraged to practice over the summer using the free video clips. Other teachers present the program to parents at Back-to-School night and provide direct links to the ASL videos from their school-to-home website.

- Describe your plan for parent collaboration, communication, and education. Adapt any Nellie Edge parent letter to meet your teaching needs. See: *Parents as Partners: Family Connections That Multiply Our Teaching Effectiveness*, by Nellie Edge, updated 2019.
- Develop a Parent Information Notebook (each of our literacy manuals contains articles that you may want to include). Plan how you will develop your parent lending library.
- How will parents be encouraged to be a part of your classroom community and a partner in meaningful learning projects at home?
- Plan for monthly “Good News” post cards to go home to families.
- Send home the monthly Family Learning Calendar.

**4. Study the document, “3 Levels of ABC Phonics Mastery,” Nellie Edge, 2019**

Document how you will reach each level with your students. How can you use this progression to enhance any district literacy program? How will you provide enough multisensory support for ALL learners?

**5. Introduce the book, *ABC Phonics: Sing, Sign, and Read!* in rich literary detail to an individual child or a small or large group of children**

Invite the children to echo read after you, page by page. Use animation and dramatic flair to deeply engage the children in learning 4 to 8 letters, sounds, and signs at a time. Examine the photos and

drawings for text features and details. Notice Common Core vocabulary, nouns, verbs, and transition words. How does “saying and doing” language increase comprehension? Record your observation and experience as you teach the entire program.

**6. Prepare a beautiful environment to optimize the ABC and Phonics Immersion program and integrate consistent visual supports across the curriculum**

Set up a vertical teaching chart close to your large group shared literacy space. Post A-Z Wall Cards. Use miniature charts (free on [ABC Phonics page](#)) in your literacy centers; print free writing Dictionary Pages for writing folders and Family ABC Phonics Reference Charts. Collect puppets, make games, create additional props, e.g. ABC Mastery Cape. See [ABC Phonics page](#) for these and other ideas.

**7. Use these multisensory learning strategies to enhance your current (district mandated) literacy program**

- Learn to fingerspell, and add that to your literacy framework.
- Create your own class book of ABC sign language experts, using photos of children fingerspelling the first letter of their names.
- Sing, sign, and send your program home for nightly review.
- Celebrate mastery as each child is able to fingerspell and name each letter and sound. This will dramatically increase learning!

**8. Create a growth mindset with specific empowering language**

- Create a culture of “I can!”
  - o *You already know the letters of your name! Wow! How did you learn them?*
  - o *You already learned a-g. Keep practicing and soon you’ll be an ABC/Phonics Expert!*
  - o *You learned the whole alphabet: letter, sound and sign! Aren’t you proud of your hard work?*
  - o *You worked hard to learn all those letters! Let’s take your picture with the Master of the Alphabet crown!*
  - o *Wow! You almost know every letter and sound! Keep practicing the last six letters: u through z! Soon you will be an expert of the whole alphabet!*
- Consider reading *Mindset: The New Psychology of Success* by Carol Dweck.

**9. Make learning visible. Have high expectations. Teach children to work hard toward their individual learning goals. Celebrate their accomplishments**

- Clearly define your goal or target for all children with Parents as Partners: *Kindergarten Friends, we are going to learn every letter and sound a-z (ABC Phonics), and we will learn to sing, sign, and read! We already know a, b, c, d: let’s review! Now we get to practice e, f, g, and h.*
- Teachers, children and parents know what the next individual ABC/Phonics target is: Ongoing assessments allow children to take pride in their progress.
- For less experienced learners, the Special Education or Response to Intervention team provides additional multisensory and writing-to-read support consistent with these “best practices.”
- Consider reading *Visible Learning for Teachers: Maximizing Impact on Learning* by John Hattie.

**10. Take the Next Step to National Board Certification — Kindergarten Teachers as Researchers and Literacy Leaders: Use Self-Assessment Guidelines**

- Articulate to the school community why Multisensory ABC and Phonics Immersion works!
  - o *The reason we are learning to fingerspell is that multisensory teaching helps the brain remember the letters and sounds, and fingerspelling builds writing muscles!*
- Begin gathering resources and studying the National Board Certification process.
- How will the strategies from Nellie Edge Online Seminars help take your teaching to a higher level?

National Board Certified Teachers have repeatedly told us that the philosophy strategies shared in Nellie Edge Live and Online Seminars helped prepare them for the NBCT process!

*Nellie Edge Seminars helped mold me into the accomplished teacher I am today. I became a Nationally Board Certified Teacher because of the type of classroom and teaching style I have. I wouldn’t have this style without Nellie Edge!* –Katy Anholt, NBCT