

## SDE Presenter Profile: **DONNA WHYTE**



**DONNA WHYTE** believes that all classrooms can be a place of joy for both the teacher and the students. She has experience as a classroom teacher and has successfully taught kindergarten, first and second grades. As a teacher in multi-grade, looping and inclusion classrooms, she developed many strategies for helping children to reach their full potential. Donna has presented workshops and seminars all across the country. Her positive attitude, high energy, and her many practical ideas make her presentations exciting to primary grade educators. Her strategies and activities are easy to transfer into classroom practice.

### Here's what your colleagues say about Donna:

*"Donna did a great job! I loved her ideas and the way she presented them."*  
Susan Zavada, Burlington, NJ

*"Donna was fabulous! I can't imagine anyone better!"*  
Kathy Wagner, Mesa, AZ

*"I recommend Donna Whyte's workshop to anyone who wants to be energized!"*  
Maureen Tralewski, Niles, IL

### Presenter Highlights:

- High-energy and exciting presenter with practical ideas and strategies that can be immediately implemented into the classroom
- Education Consultant and National Presenter since 2000
- Author of the popular books, *You Can't Teach a Class You Can't Manage*, *Sing Yourself Smart Activity Book & CD*, *Dinosaurs, Popcorn & Penguins Activity Book & CD*, *Morning Meeting/Afternoon Wrap Up*, *Read To Your Smartie*, *Number Match Math Games*, *Pig Pal Games* and *The Writing Coaching Tool*
- Content Editor – Crystal Springs Books, Peterborough, NH

### Presentations at a Glance:

- Fill Your Teacher's Toolbox! Grades K-5
- Centers in a Snap! Grades PreK-5
- You Can't Teach a Class You Can't Manage, Grades PreK-5
- Writing: Making it Happen! Grades K-5
- Phonemic Awareness, Grades K-2 (1/2-day)
- Phonics Fun! Grades PreK-2 (75-minute)
- RTI and Dimensions of Reading, Grades PreK-3
- Coaching Struggling Readers and Writers, Grades 1-5
- First Aid for the Reluctant Reader, Grades K-5 (1/2-day)
- Comprehension and Fluency Puzzle, Grades 1-5 (1/2-day)

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- Say it with Words: Vocabulary Builds Success, Grades PreK-5 (75-minute)
- Using Journals in the Classroom, Grades K-2
- Integrating Writing Development throughout the Curriculum, Grades 1-3
- Everyday Science, Grades K-1 or 2-3 (1/2-day)
- Balanced Math, Grades K-1 or 2-3 (1/2-day)
- Social Studies: The Missing Piece, Grades K-2 (1/2-day)
- Empowering the Brain! Grades K-5
- Success For the Uninspired Student, Grades K-5
- Building the Inclusion Community, Grades K-2
- Games That Teach! Grades K-5 (1/2-day)
- Games to Play and Songs to Sing, Grades K-2 (75-minute)
- Word Centers and Games, Grades 1-2 (75-minute session)
- Morning Meeting and Afternoon Wrap-Up, Grades K-2 (1/2-day)
- The First 30 Days, Grades K-3 (75-minute session)
- First and Last 30 Days of School, Grades PreK-2 (1/2-day)
- Last 30 days.... & Fresh Ideas for Next Year! Grades PreK-2
- Literature Circles Alive! Grades 1-5 (1/2-day)
- 50 Teaching Tips, Grades K-5 (75-minute)
- The How's and Why's of Connecting with Your Students, Grades K-5 (1/2-day)
- The Why and How of Parental Involvement in Schools, Grades PreK-6

### Resume:

#### EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- 1996 M.S., Education, The College of Saint Rose, Albany, NY  
 1996 New York State Certification, Elementary Education, K-6  
 1985 B.S., Psychology, State University College, Plattsburgh, NY

#### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2005-Present Education Consultant, thesmartiezone.com, Ballston Spa, NY  
 2000-2005 Senior Consultant, Staff Development for Educators, Peterborough, NH  
 2000-2001 Educational Presenter, Literacy Corner, Guilderland, NY  
 1998-2001 Elementary Education Teacher, Hoosick Falls Central School, Hoosick Falls, NY  
 1998-2001 Lighthouse Technology Teacher, Hoosick Falls Central School, Hoosick Falls, NY  
 1997-1998 Teacher, Grade 2, Hoosick Falls Central School, Hoosick Falls, NY  
 1996-1997 Teacher, Hoosick Valley Central School, Schaghticoke, NY  
 1996-1997 Teacher, Ballston Spa Central Schools, Ballston Spa, NY

#### PRESENTATION EXPERIENCE

- 2001-present National Presenter for Staff Development for Educators (SDE), presenting workshops, seminars, and conferences nationwide  
 2000-2001 Presenter for Literacy Corner, Guilderland, NY

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### **PUBLICATIONS/MEDIA**

- *You Can't Teach a Class You Can't Manage*, Crystal Springs Books, Peterborough, NH, March 2008
- *Jump, Skip & Hop into Learning! CD* (Due out July 2008)
- *Writing Tool Book*, Crystal Springs Books, Peterborough, NH 2006
- *You Know It's Time to Retire When...*, Crystal Springs Books, Peterborough, NH, 2006
- *Number Math Games*, Crystal Springs Books, Peterborough, NH, July 2005
- *Volunteers are Vital*, Crystal Springs Books, Peterborough, NH, February 2005
- *My Seasonal Writing Words*, Crystal Springs Books, Peterborough, NH, January 2005
- *My Writing Words (K-1) and (2-3)*, Crystal Springs Books, Peterborough, NH, January 2005
- *My Writing Folder*, Crystal Springs Books, Peterborough, NH, January 2005
- *Dinosaurs, Popcorn, Penguins, and More CD and Activity Book*, Crystal Springs Books, Peterborough, NH, June and September 2004
- *Morning Meeting, Afternoon Wrap-up*, Crystal Springs Books, Peterborough, NH, September 2004
- *131 Ways to Use Film Containers*, Crystal Springs Books, Peterborough, NH, April 2004
- *Sing Yourself Smart CD and Activity Book*, Crystal Springs Books, Peterborough, NH, May 2002 and May 2003
- *What Makes a Good Teacher?*, Crystal Springs Books, Peterborough, NH, November 2003
- *Read with Your Smartie*, Crystal Springs Books, Peterborough, NH, March 2003

### **Keynote Description(s):**

#### **Listen to Your Heart, Grades PreK-5**

Remember why you become an educator! Be inspired to share laughs and maybe a tear or two with Donna as she reminds us all of the importance of touching children. The triumphs and tribulations of being a teacher are humorously explored!

#### **Building Bridges, Grades PreK-5**

Building Bridges to parents, standards, colleagues & children are at the heart of teaching! Donna reminds us of how we can overcome the challenges and gain the "tools" we need to "get to the other side"!

#### **The ABC's of Change, Grades K-8**

Educators and children are wrought with CHANGE. Come and discover how change can become an opportunity for success. You will see that the saying "when one door closes, another opens" does represent the goodness in dealing with new challenges and change in our own lives and careers.

#### **Good for All...Imperative for Some! Grades K-8**

Each day educators face the challenge of meeting the diverse needs of a diverse student population. In this lighthearted, thought-provoking keynote, Donna will share current research that explores the "best practice" strategies associated with differentiated instruction. Each teacher will leave with ideas that can be used immediately in their classroom to promote higher achievement and enable all students to better learn.

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### **Enthusiasm is Contagious! Grades K-8**

As teachers, we dedicate our lives to improving children's futures—and we face many challenges along the way. Join Donna to renew your commitment and reaffirm your love for the profession. You'll discover how your passion and enthusiasm for learning can directly impact both students and colleagues each day. This thought-provoking keynote will send you on your way with a "smile in your heart"!

### **Small Changes ~ Big Differences, Grades K-8**

Come and take advantage of this opportunity to explore and discuss *small changes* that we can make to classrooms that make a *big difference* in a life of a child. Beginning the day, ending the day and all the little things in between that set children up for success! You will leave with strategies to use in your classroom the very next day as you build an exciting learning environment. Come and share ideas that will excite both you and your students!

### **Workshop Description(s):**

#### **Fill Your Teacher's Toolbox! Grades K-5**

Explore exciting RESEARCH-BASED ideas to make your classroom a more efficient, productive, and fun learning environment!

- Discover classroom management strategies to save time, save effort, and save your sanity!
- Take advantage of engaging games, chants, and songs to reinforce learning and build retention.
- Learn simple techniques to multilevel activities and reach diverse abilities and skill levels.
- Confidently manage fun and meaningful learning activities aligned to curriculum goals and objectives (and designed to meet state standards).
- Explore best practices you can readily use to raise literacy skills and boost test scores.
- Fill your toolbox with great ideas for incorporating math, science, and social studies into your day.
- Examine intrinsic motivational approaches that go beyond the prize box.
- Activate classroom rituals and routines that actually put more teaching time in your day.
- Learn terrific tips to help your students become more independent learners.
- Find exciting ways you can transform your classroom into a fantastic learning environment.
- AND, don't miss Donna's best recommendations for websites and resource materials to help you work smarter, not harder!

#### **Centers in a Snap! Grades PreK-5**

Must-know tips, tricks, and techniques for creating successful, easy-to-manage learning centers in your elementary classroom.

- Understand how centers provide students with opportunities to practice and apply new skills and concepts.
- Gain a wealth of fresh, new ideas for creating multi-level learning centers.
- Explore ways that centers can encourage students to take an active role in (and become more responsible for) their own learning.
- See how engaging center tools and activities can teach young children to work independently as well as cooperatively.
- Understand how centers can be integrated into any part of your teaching day.

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- Discover ways to utilize centers to teach reading and writing across the content areas.
- Create winning language arts, math, social studies, even science centers—in record time.
- Learn how to differentiate your centers to address students' varied interests, learning styles, and readiness levels.
- Discover time-saving and work-saving management strategies that will give you method instead of madness, especially when working with small groups.
- Go back energized, revived, and confident in your ability to make centers truly work in your classroom...equipped with 14 amazing centers ready to be put to use right away!

### **You Can't Teach a Class You Can't Manage: Strategies for Promoting Positive Behavior in Young Children! Grades PreK-5**

What do we do with those kids that seem to constantly disrupt the learning environment of our classrooms? In this session participants will actively discuss and role play scenarios that drain energy and time from our teaching. Donna will share developmentally appropriate solutions you can use to prevent and reduce common misbehaviors. Explore ways to reduce power struggles and handle behaviors in ways that turn a disruptive environment into one where communication and learning are the focus.

### **Writing: Making it Happen! Grades K-5**

Come and share a day all about writing with young children. Learn dozens of activities and strategies to create a writing program for all levels of learners. Explore how shared, modeled, interactive, and independent writing strategies can support and improve students' writing skills. You will gain activities and mini-lessons to best utilize each of these components of writing to create the best possible writers in your classroom. Donna will guide you through the assessment of students' writing and how you can develop a plan to address diverse student needs based upon those assessments. Best of all you will leave with ideas for engaging writing strategies and stations that can help motivate students to practice and master newly learned skills starting tomorrow morning.

### **Phonemic Awareness, Grades K-2 (1/2-day workshop)**

Phonemic awareness best predicts reading success. Come and explore the facets of teaching phonemic awareness and its effects on student writing and reading achievement. Discover a variety of hands-on activities, props, and materials that can help promote developmental phoneme awareness in your students. Utilize children's natural enjoyment for playing with language using nursery rhymes, poems, songs, and stories to teach phonemic sense.

### **Phonics Fun! Grades PreK-2 (75-minute session)**

Discover songs, poems and games that will help children "break the code". Teaching children phonics transfers into more independent reading and writing. This is your opportunity to gain strategies that you can put to use in your classroom starting tomorrow!

### **RTI and Dimensions of Reading, Grades PreK-3**

Response to Intervention is aimed at systematic, research-based instruction and interventions for struggling learners. This workshop is designed to identify and teach strategies for both Tier I and Tier II levels of the RTI model. Classroom teachers will learn to move general curriculum to small groups with targeted activities to ensure the success of all students. The essential five components of

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reading will be addressed, along with the answer to the question, “but what if they aren’t getting each one?” Each component will be outlined and best practice interventions introduced. Every teacher will leave with lessons and strategies for reading interventions that address modeling, guided practice and independent practice to ensure mastery. Donna will give you the tools to empower you to easily transition to targeted skills for the children who are struggling with the core reading program. Time and management factors will be explored and solutions provided to enable each teacher to address the needs of all students. You will leave this workshop knowing how to “fit it all in” by the use of independent learning opportunities, collaborative work and finding support to ensure that every child succeeds.

### **Coaching Struggling Readers and Writers, Grades 1-5**

Explore techniques and strategies for aiding your struggling readers and writers to achieve success. Learn ways to develop and provide tools to students that facilitate the mastering of key skills vital to literacy achievement.

### **First Aid for the Reluctant Reader, Grades K-5 (1/2-day workshop)**

Learn intervention strategies to use in your classroom immediately. Help your struggling readers with activities to build motivation to read. Also, share strategies for fluency, phonics, sight words and more. Be ready to return to your classroom with tools that support your struggling readers.

### **Comprehension and Fluency Puzzle, Grades 1-5 (1/2-day workshop)**

Come and share strategies for “putting the pieces” of reading together. Leave with ideas that you can put into practice in your classroom tomorrow morning to build fluency and comprehension skills. Explore fun and motivating lessons that will aid your students in reading success!

### **Say it with Words: Vocabulary Builds Success, Grades PreK-5 (75-minute session)**

Language development is at the heart of our education system for reading and writing. Communications skills can be taught that allow children to better succeed in our classrooms. Learn fun ways to introduce, practice and extend activities that build vocabulary and language skills.

### **Using Journals in the Classroom, Grades K-2**

Learn to use journals as an interactive teaching tool. Explore the many ways that journals can enhance reading and writing within your classroom. Discover the learning opportunities for literacy when journals become an integral part of your day.

### **Integrating Writing Development throughout the Curriculum, Grades 1-3**

Explore ways to easily integrate writing into every aspect of the school day. Learn to effectively develop and utilize Writing Folders to create independent, responsible writers. Utilize themes and units of study as vocabulary builders as you facilitate children in creating tools for independent writing.

### **Everyday Science, Grades K-1 or 2-3 (1/2-day workshop)**

Take advantage of those everyday opportunities to integrate science into your curriculum. Use science as a learning block that is present throughout the day. Donna demonstrates topics that you

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can extend each and everyday to ensure that science is an integral part of the students' learning experiences.

### **Balanced Math, Grades K-1 or 2-3 (1/2-day workshop)**

Examine the basic components of math that enable children to become "math wizards." Gain effective techniques for ensuring that all children are practicing and gaining mastery of important math concepts. Facilitate children to become problem-solvers and independent thinkers.

### **Social Studies: The Missing Piece, Grades K-2 (1/2-day workshop or 75-minute session)**

Come and discover how social studies topics can be transferred into multiple learning opportunities throughout the school day. Explore lessons that teach children about themselves and their world. Find ways to put social studies into reading, writing, listening, speaking & viewing instruction each and every day.

### **Empowering the Brain! Grades K-5**

Educators know more about the brain and how it learns than ever before. Let's put this research to work in our classrooms. How do children learn? What determines what kids will learn successfully? Explore ways to answer these questions with the creation of child-friendly, brain-compatible classrooms where all children can learn and grow.

### **Success for the Uninspired Student Grades K-5**

Engage and inspire your students like you never thought possible! Now you can take advantage of unique, classroom-tested strategies for creating a classroom of motivated learners. You'll discover ways to connect the classroom with your students' world. Plus, create a positive environment that will guarantee academic success for all children.

### **Building the Inclusion Community, Grades K-2**

Gain strategies for creating a classroom that addresses every child's needs and learning styles. Discover the role of school in preparing children for life in a world full of diversity. Become a leader in the quest for building tolerance and acceptance of differences among all people.

- Involve students in decision-making
- Expect students to be responsible for their education
- Maintain high expectations for every child
- Include family and community in the classroom
- Teach problem-solving strategies

### **Games That Teach! Grades K-5 (1/2-day workshop or 75-minute session)**

Activate higher-order thinking skills with kid-tested games that teach! Create daily learning opportunities. Motivate and empower children across the entire curriculum. And, have a great time with your students while you build skills and reinforce concepts. Plus, take advantage of great ideas for hands-on center activities, too!

**SDE Presenter Profile: DONNA WHYTE****Games to Play & Songs to Sing, Grades K-2 (75-minute session)**

Introduce, practice and master concepts with fun games and songs that teach. Build skills and knowledge with motivating activities that kids can't wait to be a part of. Don't miss this opportunity to add these engaging, ready to use, games and teaching tunes. You will not only receive dozens of ideas to use in your classroom immediately but also the research to support their use in learning success.

**Word Centers and Games, Grades 1-2 (75-minute session)**

Actively engage students in developing spelling skills, vocabulary and high frequency word recognition through the use of centers and games. Discover activities where children learn and have fun! Build a base of skills that will lead to more independence in reading and writing for the kids in your classroom.

**Morning Meeting and Afternoon Wrap-Up, Grades K-2 (1/2-day workshop or 75-minute session)**

Investigate the importance of beginning the day as a group of learners. Effectively utilize morning meeting to connect children with the classroom. Also, learn the importance of adding closure at the end of each day. Donna will share a variety of closing activities that encourage children to answer that parent question, "What did you do in school today?" with more than just "Nothing!"

**The First 30 Days, Grades K-3 (75-minute session)**

Start the school year with routines and management tips that are sure to help you create a successful learning environment. Donna will share her ideas on facilitating a class of students who are independent problem-solvers. Less interruptions plus more independence equals greater learning! Explore strategies for creating a classroom with a "love of learning".

**First & Last 30 Days of School, Grades PreK-2 (1/2-day workshop)**

Start the year with routines and management tips that are sure to help you create a successful learning environment. Share strategies that can be easily transferred into your own classroom. Ending the year can be just as challenging as the beginning. Come and find ideas and themes for "wrapping it all up". The kids will love it and you will find the motivation to end the year with a BANG!

**Last 30 days.... & Fresh Ideas for Next Year! Grades PreK-2**

Spring is upon us and ending the year can be just as challenging as the beginning. Come and find ideas and themes for "wrapping it all up". The kids will love it and you will find the motivation to end the year with a BANG! Share strategies that can be easily transferred to your classroom for the rest of this year. Then, we will look forward to starting next school year with routines and management tips that are sure to help you create a successful learning environment. Investigate the importance of beginning the day as a group of learners. Establish everyday opportunities for introducing, practicing and extending basic learning concepts that will enable every child to succeed. Also learn the importance of adding closure at the end of each day. Donna will share a variety of activities, songs and games that encourage children to become active members of a classroom built to facilitate higher level thinking. We will explore how more teaching doesn't necessarily mean adding more, but instead focusing on essential elements of learning. Let's create the classroom of our dreams for teaching and learning. Where children are our focus and learning is fun!

**SDE Presenter Profile: DONNA WHYTE****Literature Circles Alive! Grades 1-5 (1/2-day workshop)**

Come and take advantage of this opportunity to explore and discuss strategies for creating successful literature circles. In this session, you will become an active member of a group in order to determine how best to utilize individual roles to further group discussions. Discover techniques for conferencing and using reader response journals. You will leave with tools to use in your classroom the very next day as you build an exciting literature environment.

**50 Teaching Tips, Grades K-5 (75-minute session)**

Come and share ideas and activities that will boost your daily classroom schedule. These quick and easy teaching tips will add time, fun and energy to your day. Leave with simple organizational tools and strategies that will lead to learning success each and every day.

**The How's and Why's of Connecting with Your Students, Grades K-5 (1/2 day workshop)**

Come and share ideas and activities that will boost your daily classroom schedule. These quick and easy teaching tips will add time, fun and energy to your day. Leave with simple organizational tools and strategies that will lead to learning success each and every day.

**The Why and How of Parental Involvement in Schools, Grades PreK-6**

We all know the saying, "It takes a village to raise a child". Part of the village is the school and finding ways to build bridges to parents is an essential part of education. Successful school find ways to connect a child's life at school to the child's home life. Donna will share the importance of this relationship and how to build a foundation of parent involvement. The session will explore strategies for addressing the issues that surround this topic and how we can find creative solutions that work for both teachers and parents. Most importantly, solutions that support our children in their learning.

Donna will address:

- Why is parental involvement important?
- Defining parent involvement in schools
- Barriers to parental involvement
- Exploring Options/Discovering Benefits, School ~ Home Involvement
- Creative solutions to get parents involved
- Resources for Teachers and Parents