

# OCDBE

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DEAFBLIND EDUCATION

Professional Learning  
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## Essential Literacy Lessons for Children who are Deafblind: Experience Books and Shared Reading

Presented by: Dr. Susan Bruce

January 9 from 4:00 – 5:00 pm (ET) Online

**Program description:** *Literacy activities support communication and language development. This presentation will begin with an expanded definition of literacy that is inclusive of all learners. Key concepts, such as individualized and personalized literacy, will be addressed. Most of the presentation will focus on how to develop and implement two essential literacy lessons for children who are deafblind: experience books and shared reading. Instructional strategies and materials will be shared. This is the first of two professional learning sessions featuring Dr. Susan Bruce.*

**Guest speaker:** Susan Bruce, PhD is a professor of special education at Boston College. She coordinates the Master's Degree Programs in Special Education: Extensive Support Needs with an optional specialization in deafblindness. Her research interests are communication and early language development in learners with multiple disabilities (and especially deafblindness), assessment, and collaborative action research. Dr. Bruce has published 61 articles and chapters that specifically address the learning of children who are deafblind. She is the mother of four adult children, including a daughter with multiple disabilities.

### Learning Objectives:

- Participants will learn key concepts, including the difference between individualized and personalized literacy, and the importance of saliency to the development of experience books.
- Participants will learn how to develop and implement experience books.
- Participants will be able to identify key instructional strategies for supporting shared reading with learners who are deafblind.

**Registration link for session 1:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OCDBEexpbooksJan92023>

**Questions?** Contact Jodi Dowell, Research Associate, University of Cincinnati Systems Development & Improvement Center at [dowelljr@ucmail.uc.edu](mailto:dowelljr@ucmail.uc.edu)



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