



Reading Recovery®

The Practice Page

A Newsletter for Kentucky Reading Recovery® Professionals

www.readingrecoverycenter.org

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Reading Recovery® Continues to Grow

by Dr. Judy Embry

A period of tremendous growth has taken place for Kentucky during the 2005-2006 school year for Reading Recovery through seven new Teacher Leaders and 149 new teachers. The impact of this growth establishes a strong statewide infrastructure for Reading Recovery in Kentucky. With

the state allocation of \$20.5 million for 2006-2007 and \$23.5 million for 2007-2008 for Read to Achieve grants, we now have an opportunity for a greater impact on the expansion of Reading Recovery in Kentucky. We must continue and re-commit our efforts to maintain the best possible early literacy intervention for our children, schools, and school districts. Thank you for the personal contact, phone calls, e-mails, and letters to our Kentucky legislators this spring. Your efforts and voice have been heard in Frankfort.

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Announcing the July 2006 Reading Recovery® Conference

Compiled by Heather Hartley
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The Reading Recovery University Training Center invites Kentucky Reading Recovery teachers to explore the new works of Dr. Marie Clay—the developer of Reading Recovery—entitled *Literacy Lessons Designed for Individuals* at the 2006 Statewide Reading Recovery Conference which will be July 18-19 at the Marriott Griffin Gate in Lexington, Kentucky.

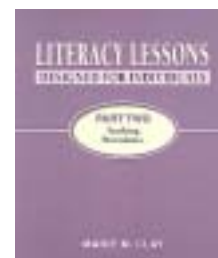
Teacher Leaders from across the state will facilitate break-out sessions highlighting new Reading Recovery practices. The first day of the conference will begin on Tuesday, July 18th at 6:30 p.m. and will conclude at 8:30 p.m. This evening session will focus on the contents of Book One of

Literacy Lessons. Book Two of *Literacy Lessons* will be featured on

Wednesday, July 19th from 8:30 to 4 p.m. Participants who cannot attend the Tuesday evening session will be able to attend a repeat of the Book One session on Wednesday from 4:15-5:30 p.m.

Conference check-in will be from 5 to 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 18th and 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, July 19th.

Conference registration is due by June 15, 2006. See attached registration form at the end of this newsletter.



Even Reading Recovery® Students Grow Up!

By Vikki Hall

Vicki.Hall@franklin.kyschools.us

This June my very first Reading Recovery students will be taking that important walk across the stage to receive their high school diplomas. I can hardly believe so much time has gone by and they are so mature.

A very special student comes to my mind. Brandon was one of my first four students during my training year. He was small and unsure of himself with a constant worried look on his face. It took every one of those ten roaming sessions to get him to feel comfortable with me and ready to take a few “risks.” At first, his progress was slow and his attempts very “tentative.” Eventually he began to



Brandon, now and then.

from Reading Recovery because he was a great detective who could search for information and find chunks inside big words, he got very upset. After much questioning I learned that

The amazement on his little face was glorious to behold. He looked at me with huge eyes and said, “I really can read!” I looked at him with tears

“I might never have had the confidence to try new things and believe I could succeed if I had not had Reading Recovery in first grade!”

understand how those words really worked and showed independence in using information.

As is often the case, everyone knew that he was improving before he knew it. For many weeks he would voice his concern each time I gave the new book orientation saying, “Are you sure I am ready for this one?” or “This one may be too hard for me.” These “harder” more challenging books were always within his “zone” and he worked toward discontinuing in a consistent pattern.

Finally the day came when he really was ready. He read for my partner Reading Recovery teacher with fluency and great intonation—my little bird was ready to fly! When we explained that he had “graduated”

Brandon believed he could only read in the “Reading Recovery room” and only “my books”! I tried to explain away his fears but he was convinced that outside of my area he would fail!

Very quickly I realized that I had to find a way to help him believe in his own strengths and capabilities. We took a trip to the school library and went to the shelves where first and second grade level books were kept. I started pulling books off that shelf that he had read successfully!

“Brandon, you read this book and this one and these two and here is another one,” I reminded him. He was still not convinced so I asked him to choose a book from the shelf that he had **not** read. We sat together in a quiet corner of the library where he proceeded to “read” that unseen book fluently.

in my eyes and replied, “Yes, you really can read!”

This year, Brandon will graduate with honors. He plans to attend college and major in accounting and finance. He is now 6 feet 5 inches tall and a very handsome and self-assured young man. Two years ago Brandon shared with our state legislators some thoughts about his Reading Recovery experience. He told the Senate Education Committee, “I might never have had the confidence to try new things and believe I could succeed if I had not had Reading Recovery in first grade!”

Experiences like this help teachers remember why they willingly dedicate their lives to helping young readers. I feel very blessed to have those kind words from a former student.

Meet the Newest Teacher Leaders

Compiled by Heather Hartley
Heather.hartley@uky.edu

Karen Birdwhistell, Danna Duff, Carla Hinkle, Margie Linde, Debbie Rush, Donna Singleton, and Mary Beth Stevens have been training to become Teacher Leaders during the 2005-2006 school year.

Karen Birdwhistell

Karen Birdwhistell's experience includes being a principal and primary teacher and she currently is an instructional supervisor/Title I coordinator for Hart County Schools in Munfordville, Kentucky. She lives in Elizabethtown with her husband and their two children. Amanda is currently in her second year of law school at the University of Louisville and Tyler is a senior at Georgetown College.

She wanted to become involved in Reading Recovery® because she has seen the powerful difference it has made in the lives of children and families in her district. She is impressed with the extensive professional development that enables the teacher to make effective decisions based upon the needs of the individual child.

Danna Duff

Danna currently resides in Perry County along with her 17 year-old son Daniel. She graduated from Morehead State University in 1995. She has been a Reading Recovery teacher in the Breathitt County School System since 1999. She received National Board Certification in 2004 and is currently employed at Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative as a Teacher Leader. She is looking forward to

working with school districts throughout Eastern Kentucky to provide children with Reading Recovery services.

Carla Hinkle

Carla Hinkle is from Barbourville, located in Southeastern Kentucky. She is a graduate of Union College where she received her Rank I in education. She began working for the Knox County School system in 1994 as a language arts teacher. After teaching writing portfolios for five years, she



Back row from right: Danna Duff, Dr. Judy Embry, Margie Linde, Mary Beth Stevens, Karen Birdwhistell, and Carla Hinkle. Front row: Debbie Rush, Sandy Jackson (admin. assist.) and Donna Singleton.

trained as the first Reading Recovery teacher in the Knox County School System. After six years of teaching the program, she has completed training to be a Reading Recovery Teacher Leader for the Southeast part of the state.

Carla's vision is to aid in the process for every child to be influenced by the power of Reading Recovery. In Carla's spare time she enjoys spending time with her family.

Margie Linde

Margie Linde lives in Bullitt County, Kentucky. She graduated from the University of Louisville with a Master's degree in Early Elementary Education. She has taught in Bullitt County for 14 years and will be the Teacher Leader for her district. She has two children, Brian and Britney. In her spare time she enjoys spending time with her family and friends.

Debbie Rush

Debbie Rush has lived in Monroe County for 23 years. She is a native of Fayette County having graduated from Lafayette High School in Lexington. Debbie has taught kindergarten for 15 years and then discovered Reading Recovery and the excellent opportunities it offered to low-level readers. Reading Recovery was not present in Monroe County and without a teacher leader in surrounding counties she saw the need for one to service that area of the state.

Debbie believes there is nothing more important than providing the opportunities to those who truly need and deserve the one-on-one teaching Reading Recovery offers for reading and writing. Because Debbie feels that Reading Recovery is indeed the lifeline for struggling readers, she appreciates her school system, district, and legislators for the opportunity to bring Reading Recovery into the Green River Regional Educational Cooperative.

Donna Singleton

Donna Singleton lives in a small community called Fisty in Southeast Kentucky. She spent 17 years as an elementary teacher in Knott County. Her teaching role changed several times during that 17 year period—ten years were spent working as a

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science lab instructor serving third through eighth grade students, five years in a self-contained fourth grade class, and two years working within a split third/fourth grade classroom. She has also served as a portfolio district leader, a high school assistant basketball coach, a high school softball coach, volleyball coach, and an elementary speech coach.

In 2003, she learned about Reading Recovery. After her training, she worked at Cordia in Knott County as a Reading Recovery teacher until being accepted into the Reading Recovery Teacher Leader program during the fall of 2005.

During her Reading Recovery training she has come to realize three important life-changing facts. First, Reading Recovery is a highly effective reading and writing short-term

intervention based on strength of building a self-extending processing system and the strength of implementation (training for all levels of teachers). Second, effective leaders never stand alone—they work through vision as equals within a system. And third, but not least, the person who first said, “What does not kill you, will make you stronger,” must have been a Reading Recovery Teacher Leader.

Mary Beth Stevens

Mary Beth Stevens was trained to be a Reading Recovery teacher during the 1998-99 school year in Jefferson County by Glynda Kelso. After her training year, she worked at Watson Lane Elementary, in Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS), for six years as a Reading Recovery teacher and Literacy Leader in the developing

JCPS Literacy System. She previously worked nine years as a fourth grade teacher in parochial, private, and public schools in Kentucky and Tennessee.

She currently teaches students at Hawthorne Elementary School, and will be a JCPS Reading Recovery Teacher Leader next year.

She and her husband Barry have two sons, Porter and Joe, and a dog named Lucille.

Reading Recovery Insights

By Bridget Murphy
bmmurphy@morgan.k12.ky.us

During fall testing I observed a child in the text reading level portion demonstrate something that I had never seen before in my six years of Reading Recovery testing.

The child was reading *At the Zoo* and had done a perfect job until he got to the last page. Instead of reading the text as printed, *you can find the elephant*, he ‘read’ as follows: “The girl looks at the elephant. The boy looks at the elephant. The boy looks at the elephant. The girl looks at the elephant. The girl looks at the elephant. The boy looks at the elephant.”

At first I was shocked at the child’s response until I noticed that he had been looking down the line of children in the picture. He was following the pattern for the text and using the visual cues to determine who had looked at the elephant! Sometimes we need to re-examine what first appears to be totally incorrect and find the hidden value in the child’s response.

How The Practice Page Got Its Name

By Ronda Williams
Ronda.Williams@am.dodea.edu



Ronda Williams

Editor’s note: Ronda Williams named our Reading Recovery newsletter and is a Reading Recovery teacher in the Fort Knox school system currently pursuing her Master’s degree in Special Education. She has two children

ages 8 and 12 who are very active on swim teams.

My Teacher Leader said there was a contest for naming our Reading Recovery newsletter. I am a pretty competitive person so the word “contest” hooked me. So, I woke up early on a Saturday morning (of all days) and just started writing all kinds of ideas for the name. Of all my brainstormed names *Practice Page* just stood out for me because during lessons the practice page is so important for trying new things and firming up the known. My idea was that the newsletter would be doing the same thing for Reading Recovery teachers—it would be suggesting some new innovations to try and validating many practices that we already use.

Kentucky Rises to Anonymous Donor's Challenge

By Glynda Kelso
gkelso@insightbb.com

Inspired by the success of the matching donor challenge held at last year's National Reading Recovery & Early Classroom Literacy Conference, two Kentucky educators decided to organize a similar project in their area.

Last year, Dr. Judy Embry, Reading Recovery trainer at the University of Kentucky, and Glynda Kelso, a Kentucky Reading Recovery Teacher Leader, watched with awe as names of donors were added to the matching donor challenge board at the 2005 national conference. An anonymous donor had agreed to donate 50 cents for each dollar

contributed by a conference attendee, increasing the value of each gift.

When the total number of gifts grew to almost 300, the two individuals were determined to bring the challenge to their home state of Kentucky.

"I was so impressed by all of the people who were making gifts to meet the challenge and to help strengthen Reading Recovery! I wanted a way to involve my Teacher Leader friends and fellow teachers in showing how proud we are of its success in Kentucky," Glynda said.

Glynda contacted the Reading Recovery Council of North America

about extending the challenge, and the anonymous donor agreed to match the funds raised during the special Kentucky campaign. The Reading Recovery teachers and Teacher Leaders in Kentucky rose to the challenge and donated more than \$1,150 to the Reading Recovery Fund. With the matching funds from the anonymous donor, more than \$1,700 was contributed to help make Reading Recovery available to every child who needs it.

All the Kentucky donors who participated in the special extended challenge were recognized in the Reading Recovery Fund Annual Report.

Teacher Leaders Drop in on Frankfort

By Heather Hartley
Heather.hartley@uky.edu

On March 17, the Reading Recovery Teacher Leaders visited the State Capitol to meet and thank Senator Dan Kelly for all that he has done to bring Reading Recovery to struggling readers across the state.

During the senate session Senator Kelly recognized the Reading Recovery group. You may view the session online at <http://www.ket.org/legislature/archives.php>. Select "March 17 Senate chambers."



Kentucky Teacher Leaders with Sen. Dan Kelly, Sen. Jack Westwood, Dr. Judy Embry, Dr. Susan Cantrell, CCLD Director, and Sandy Jackson, administrative assistant.

Reading Recovery Continues to Grow *cont. from page 1*

Please take time and read about each new Teacher Leader; they have just completed their year-long training. The new Teacher Leaders will be attending the Teacher Leader Institute this June in Denver, Colorado.

After the Teacher Leader Institute

in June, the Teacher Leaders will share their insights and understandings during the statewide Reading Recovery conference in July. The conference is sponsored by the Reading Recovery Center at the University of Kentucky. This statewide event will be the

springboard for using Dr. Clay's new books, *Literacy Lessons Designed for Individuals*.

We hope that every trained, certified Reading Recovery teacher in the commonwealth will attend our first statewide conference dedicated to Reading Recovery.

The Practice Page. Kentucky's Reading Recovery newsletter, is published by the University of Kentucky's Reading Recovery Training Center. It is distributed online without charge at www.readingrecoverycenter.org. Please send comments, suggestions, or material for consideration to [Heather Hartley](mailto:Heather.Hartley@uky.edu) at heather.hartley@uky.edu.



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**The 2006 Statewide
Reading Recovery®
Conference:
Literacy Lessons
for Individuals**

A conference for Reading Recovery teachers in Kentucky focusing on the new works of Dr. Marie Clay, the developer of Reading Recovery.

Conference check in:

Tuesday, July 18th from 5 to 6:30 p.m. or Wednesday, July 19th from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. based on which registration option is chosen.

Conference sessions:

Tuesday, July 18th from 7-8:30 p.m.
Wednesday, July 19th from 8:30 to 4 p.m. or 8:30 to 5:30 p.m. if Wednesday only option is selected.

July 18-19, 2006

Marriott Griffin Gate
1800 Newtown Pike
Lexington, Kentucky 40511

Conference registration is due by June 15, 2006.

The conference is free to certified trained Reading Recovery teachers in Kentucky.

**Please mail completed form to:
University of Kentucky Reading Recovery
Training Center
Conference Registration
170 Taylor Education Building
Lexington, KY 40506**

**OR fax completed form to:
859-323-3963**

Registration Form

REGISTRATION OPTIONS

- Tuesday, July 18th only**
(7-8:30 p.m.)
- Wednesday, July 19th only**
(8:30- 5:30 p.m.)
- Full Conference**
(if attending full conference your session will end at 4 p.m.)

Lodging Requirements:

Payment for lodging is the responsibility of the attendee.* By letting us know if you need lodging we can ensure that the hotel rooms will be available at the special conference rate.

I will need lodging for Tuesday, July 18th:

- Yes
 No

I would like to share a room with: _____

*Reading Recovery scholarships for lodging are available through the Reading Recovery Training Center at the University of Kentucky. Please inquire by calling Sandy Jackson at 859-257-7859.

Name: _____
Year trained in Reading Recovery: _____
My Teacher Leader is: _____
My continuing contact site is: _____

School Information

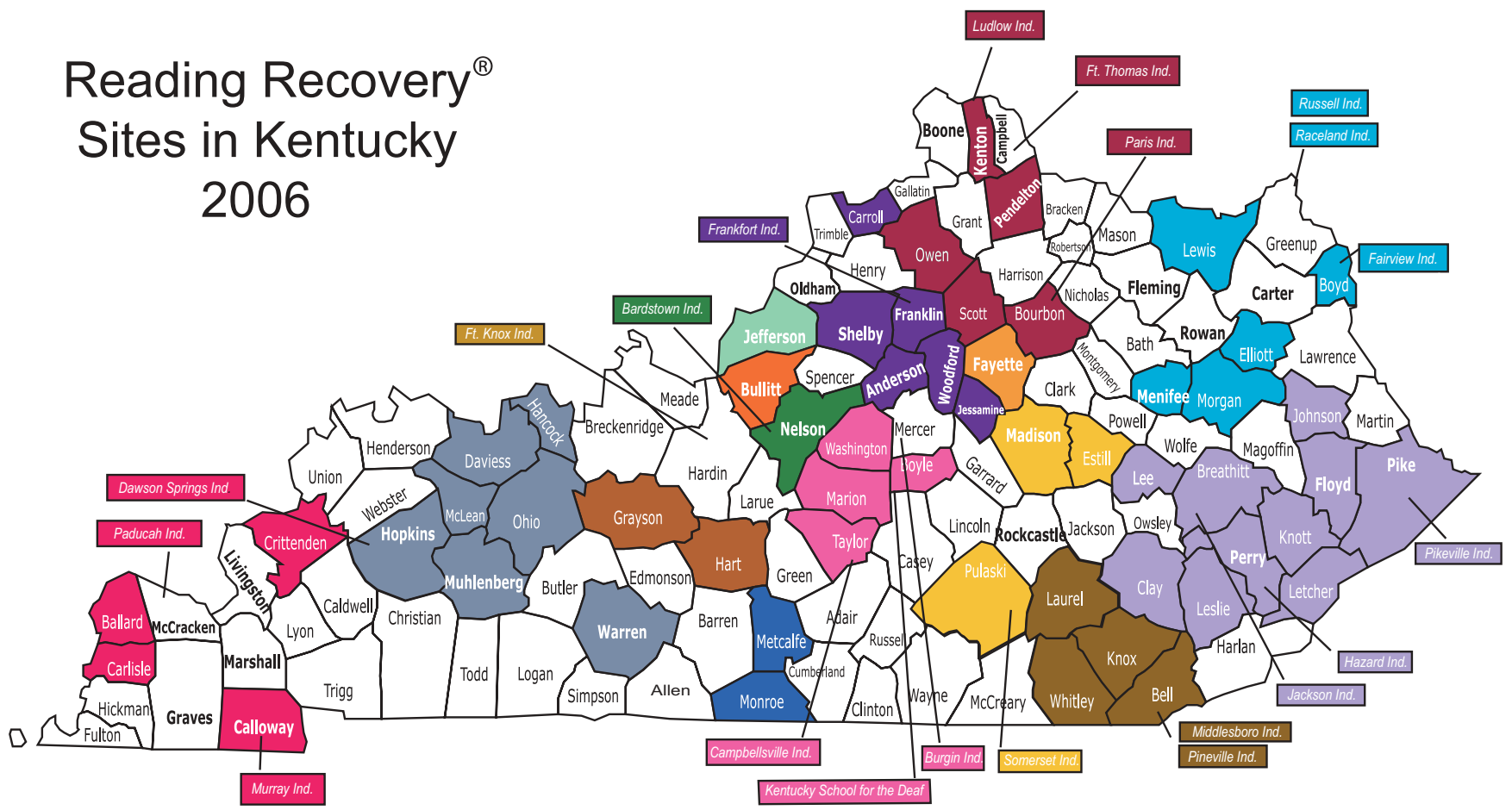
School Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ **State:** _____
Zip: _____ **Phone:** _____
E-mail address: _____

Home Information

Address: _____
City: _____ **State:** _____
Zip: _____ **Phone:** _____

Special dietary needs: _____

Reading Recovery[®] Sites in Kentucky 2006



Key					
■ Murray State University Marla Smith	■ Washington County Public Schools Lindy Harmon	■ Madison County Schools Amy Smith	■ Franklin County Public Schools Vikki Hall	■ Fort Knox Community Schools Claudia Castenir	■ Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative Vickie Slone Danna Duff Donna Singleton Glynda Kelso
■ Ohio County Schools Sherry Sharp	■ Fayette County Schools Stacy Carmichael	■ Nelson County Public Schools Theresa Foutch	■ Jefferson County Public Schools Cindy Goldstein Sheila Poore Mary Beth Stevens	■ Russell Primary School Bev Clarke	
■ Hart County Schools Karen Birdwhistell	■ Bourbon County Schools Lisa Chafin	■ Bullitt County Schools Margie Linde	■ Knox County Schools Carla Hinkle		
■ Monroe County Schools Debbie Rush					

