

# 2018/2019 ONLINE COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE WEBINARS: ENHANCE YOUR PRACTICE WITH MATH



**“...thank you for sharing such valuable information to our field. The many resources, tips, links and strategies are helpful to me and in the delivery of numeracy to our learners.”**

*LBS Practitioner  
feedback*

Demonstrating the impact of the Online Community of Practice Webinar series within the Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS) field.

# Online Community of Practice Webinars

## What are the Online Community of Practice for LBS Webinars?

The Online Community of Practice for LBS webinars were created by the Learning Networks of Ontario (LNO). They offer practitioners training and professional development opportunities that are relevant and cost-effective. The committee has expanded to include members of the Provincial Support Organizations for Literacy (PSOL). The webinars are supported by Contact North. We offer webinars on timely topics to increase the knowledge within the Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS) field and to support the delivery of the LBS Program.

The members of the Online Community of Practice for LBS committee are:

- ∞ Andrea Dickinson, Tri-County Literacy Network
- ∞ Annemarie Wesolowski, Literacy Northwest
- ∞ Barb Glass, College Sector Committee
- ∞ Debera Flynn, QUILL Learning Network
- ∞ Gay Douglas Broerse, Literacy Link Niagara
- ∞ Joanne Kaattari, Community Literacy of Ontario
- ∞ Sara Gill, Adult Basic Education Association
- ∞ Sarah Stocker, Contact North
- ∞ Tamara Kaattari, Literacy Link South Central

To learn more about the Learning Networks of Ontario, please visit:

<http://www.learningnetworks.ca>

# Online Community of Practice Webinars

## The 2018/2019 Webinar Series: [Enhance your Practice with Math](#)

### Webinar # 1: Why Math Matters

Delivered September 27, 2018

**Description:** A panel discussion moderated by Tamara Kaattari, Executive Director of Literacy Link South Central focused on math's place in preparing our learners for the current and future workforce. Featured panelists, who brought their insights about why math matters in every way, included:

- Doug Noyes, Executive Director, Literacy Link Eastern Ontario
- Jane Tuer, Executive Director, Project READ Literacy Network
- Debra Mountenay, Executive Director, Elgin Middlesex, Oxford Workforce Planning and Development Board
- Barb Glass, Executive Director, College Sector Committee for Adult Upgrading/ long-time math educator

**Webinar evaluation:** 96% of respondents stated their knowledge and understanding of the subject matter had increased (52.5% somewhat agreed and 44.2% completely agreed)

#### Participant comments and key lessons:

- "Excellent presentation, thank you to the presenters for taking the time to discuss these matters."
- "To make math real and to always look for ways to adapt math teaching to real world situations."
- "The discussion about EQAO results helping to plan future LBS programming. Also, the difference of EQAO results depending on a school's socioeconomic status."
- "The importance of how early education affects you in later life, i.e., how math was dismissed so easily in comparison to English. Important for LBS Instructors to be proactive and totally positive towards math and all aspects of it."

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### Webinar # 2: Math Anxiety

Delivered October 25, 2018

**Description:** Dealing with math anxiety is an ongoing challenge for everyone supporting learners. Especially those learners whose previous experiences with math have been anything but confidence inspiring!

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Arlene Cronin, Program Director for ACE Distance Delivery helped us better understand what causes math anxiety. She reviewed many ways it can affect learners and provided some practical strategies to overcome it.

**Webinar evaluation:** 92% of respondents indicated their knowledge and understanding of the subject matter had increased (54% somewhat agreed and 38% completely agreed).

**Participant comments and key lessons:** When asked to identify the most significant thing they would take away from the webinar, a variety of answers were given, but some key themes emerged around the use of relaxation techniques to combat math anxiety, additional resources and research to use and apply, and self-reflection on how a teacher presents math concepts.

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## Webinar # 3: Making Math Fun!

Delivered November 22, 2018

**Description:** A panel discussion was moderated by Andrea Dickinson, Executive Director of Tri-County Literacy Network. Tips, tricks, and teaching strategies to make math fun for learners were shared by a series of panelists including:

- Barb Glass, Executive Director, College Sector Committee for Adult Upgrading/ long-time math educator
- Wayne Miedema – Instructor, Essential Skills Upgrading – Waterloo Region District School Board
- Summer Burton, Project Manager, Literacy Link South Central’s Gamification Project

**Webinar evaluation:** 100% of respondents indicated their knowledge and understanding of the subject matter had increased (35.7% somewhat agreed and 64.3% completely agreed).

**Participant comments and key lessons:** When asked to identify the most significant thing they would take away from the webinar, a variety of answers were given, but some key themes emerged around the use of gamification techniques, using humour, instilling wonder and appreciation for resources shared. The links to online resources were identified as valuable for further perusal, and participants appreciated helpful hints about taking the fear and unknowns about math, and promoting the fabulous world of numbers/numeracy.

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## Webinar # 4: Math Resources

Delivered January 24, 2019

**Description:** In this dynamic webinar, Literacy Link Niagara's (LLN) Co-Executive Director Gay Douglas-Broerse shared 80+ practical, effective online and print math resources for each goal path, collected from LBS practitioners across Ontario. A full list of all resources were shared with the field.

**Webinar evaluation:** 92.8% of respondents indicated their knowledge and understanding of the subject matter had increased (35.7% somewhat agreed and 57.1% completely agreed). Three respondents (5.4%) somewhat disagreed and one respondent did not answer this question.

**Participant comments and key lessons:** When asked to identify the most significant thing they would take away from the webinar, all responses cited resources. Some had become aware of new resources, others were reminded of old resources, and many were excited about the digital math resources presented.

- "I am looking forward to checking out some of the new websites."
- "Math is such a terrifying subject for many learners. The digital resources will assist them very much."
- "Great to be able to attend from outside Ontario."

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## Webinar # 5: Money Math (Financial Literacy)

Delivered February 28, 2019

**Description:** A panel discussion was moderated by Sara Gill, Executive Director of Adult Basic Education Association, discussing the importance of financial literacy knowledge, how to market workshops about financial literacy, and where to get guest speakers. Panelists included:

- Paul Bishop, ABC Life Literacy Canada (creator of the Money Matters financial literacy curricula, with support from TD Bank)
- Helen McLeod, Executive Director Hamilton Literacy Council who delivers ABEA financial literacy curriculum
- Yvonne Thompson, Adult Learning Programs of Perth, who has successfully marketed Money Matters
- Debera Flynn, QUILL, presented for Jane Tuer who created financial literacy task-based activities for Project READ with a Libro grant
- Ningwakwe George, who presented information on the new Indigenous financial literacy curriculum, FFLAME

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**Webinar evaluation:** 100% of respondents indicated their knowledge and understanding of the subject matter had increased (37.1% somewhat agreed and 71.4% completely agreed).

**Participant comments and key lessons:** When asked to identify the most significant thing they would take away from the webinar, almost all responses cited resources, with several respondents noting they learned new approaches to teaching money math.

- I'm really excited about looking into ABC Life Literacy's material plus I'm glad to have been given the info about the Libro material on QUILL's portal. I knew about it but had forgotten so the reminder is much appreciated.
- Thanks for lots of great resources, info & recorded webinars to pass along to other staff who could not attend.
- The interesting community partnerships that the groups were able to make reminded me that we could do the same



In recognition of the value of this professional development series, participants attending all 5 webinars were sent a certificate of participation.

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## In Conclusion

The service category for this business plan deliverable was to **support the improvement of LBS Service Provider organizational capacity.**

The associated support organization business plan priority was to **provide high quality instruction to learners through the development of learning tools, curricula and resources**, which support:

- a. Problem solving and lifelong learning skills in technology rich environments, and
- b. Innovative approaches to instruction including blended learning and distance deliver.

The outcome was to **improve knowledge transfer and proficiency in LBS service delivery** where:

- 79% of evaluation respondents indicate that the OCP webinars have increased their knowledge of and understanding of the subject matter, and
- 70% of the evaluation respondents indicate that the OCP webinars are relevant to their work

The Online Community of Practice webinars for LBS have benefitted the LBS field. The committee delivered practical training to support LBS practitioners to increase their ability to work to improve numeracy skills for work, learning or life. We achieved the promise of the business plan priority to increase the ability for learners to receive high quality instruction and included a fun component to working with numeracy, along with a listing of resources both print and digital to assist learners across Ontario. We are pleased to have delivered on the performance measures we agreed on in our 2018-2019 business plan.

It was a pleasure to work together on this business plan deliverable and the committee anticipates another successful year in 2019-2020 as we highlight the government priorities on increasing Apprenticeship completions and supporting learners living in poverty.

**Resources from this webinar series can be found at**

**<https://e-channel.ca/practitioners/lbs-online-community-practice>**



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