



COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
**COLORADO READING FIRST**

# TOUCHING BASE

FEBRUARY 23, 2007

PUTTING PROVEN METHODS OF READING RESEARCH IN THE CLASSROOM TO INCREASE  
 STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT ACROSS THE NATION

## COLORADO READING FIRST ANNUAL SPRING CONFERENCE

Registration opens **March 1** for the Colorado Reading First Conferences in April!

Choose from the following dates and locations:

**April 13, 2007**  
**Renaissance Denver**  
**Marriott**

3801 Quebec Street  
 Denver  
 888.238.6762  
 \$109/night  
 Hotel reservation deadline:  
 March 22  
 Hotel registration code:  
 Sopris West

**April 16, 2007**  
**Sheraton**

2886 South Circle Drive  
 Colorado Springs  
 719.576.5900  
 \$78/single  
 \$98/double  
 Hotel reservation deadline:  
 March 16  
 Hotel registration code:  
 Reading First

**April 27, 2007**  
**Sangre de Cristo Arts & Conference Center**

210 N. Santa Fe Avenue  
 Pueblo  
 Accommodations: Pueblo  
 Marriott  
 110 W. First Street, Pueblo  
 800.228.9290  
 \$99/night

Hotel Reservation deadline:  
 April 6  
 Hotel Registration Code:  
 Reading First

When calling for reservations, please mention the code to receive the correct room rate.

We have an informative day planned, including an opening session on the “Year of Reading and Writing” in Colorado and a showcase of successes in Reading First schools across Colorado.

The break-out sessions will focus on the following topics:

- Enhancing Instruction for ELL Students with Maria Elena Arguelles
- Active Engagement with Kim Marcum
- Fluency and Re-reading with Deb Berlin
- Making the Most Out of Data with Kathy Tiefenthaler



Online registration opens March 1. Registrations are conducted on a first come, first served basis. Please sign-up as soon as possible!

Look for the link on the [CRF website](#) home page under “What’s New” to be directed to the conference page and the link to registration. See you in April!



### NOTE TO PRINCIPALS

The CRF team thanks you for your patience regarding receipt of the funding letters. Funding letters will be mailed out on Friday, February 23, 2007. Letters should arrive in three to five days. If you do not receive your letter within the next week please contact your Regional Consultant.

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- *Reading First Annual Spring Conference*
- *Student Friendly Resources*
- *The Word on Comprehension*
- *Overview of a DIBELS data board*
- *CRF Calendar — Know what’s coming up*

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## Student-Friendly Resources

Finding user-friendly online resources for teachers can be a challenge. Following are resources we think may be useful in your CRF classrooms.

<http://www.longman.com>

Within this website is the Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English which provides student-friendly definitions for vocabulary instruction.

This dictionary is free to use and you can look up virtually ANY word on the Internet. The online version of the dic-

tionary contains over 207,000 words, phrases, and meanings.

To access the dictionary, use the following direct link <http://www.longman.com/ldoce/>, or go to the main site, look for the link "Online Dictionary" (upper left corner).

Another resource for discovering images and pictures that can be utilized for vocabulary practice is the Advanced Image Search found within Google.

To access this search, go to <http://www.google.com> and select the "Images link". On

the right side of the search field, select the link "Advanced Image Search." Choose your parameters on the next page and see what Google finds!



"READING IS A  
BASIC TOOL IN  
THE LIVING OF  
A GOOD LIFE"  
~MORTIMER J.  
ADLER

## The Word on Comprehension

By definition, comprehension is "the process of simultaneously extracting and constructing meaning through interaction and involvement with the written language. It consists of three elements: the reader, the text and the activity or purpose for reading" (RAND Reading Study Group, 2002).

The following is provided by Anita L. Archer, Ph.D. who shares her knowledge on Scaffolding Reading Comprehension in the Primary Grades.

The amount and type of scaffolding is dependent upon the reader, the text, and the activity or purpose for reading.

### Before Reading:

- Teach the pronunciation of difficult to read words;
- Teach the meaning of critical, unknown vocabulary words;
- Teach or activate any necessary background knowledge; and
- Preview the story or the article.

### During Reading:

- Utilize passage reading procedures that provide adequate reading practice;
- Ask appropriate questions during passage reading;
- Teach strategies that can be applied to passage reading; and

- Use graphic organizers to enhance comprehension.

### After Reading:

- Provide intentional fluency building practice;
- Engage students in a discussion;
- Have students answer written questions;
- Provide engaging vocabulary practice; and
- Have students write summaries of what they have read.



April Conferences are part of Colorado Reading First Professional Development Requirements.



## ONLINE LEARNING COURSES

Mark your calendar! The updated Assessment course is scheduled to release on March 1, 2007.

It is important to note that you will see two versions of the Assessment course. If you have already started the course, please finish this course. If you have not started, please access the new version.

### Can I get university credit for the online courses?

Yes, you can get credit from the University of Northern Colorado (UNC) for these courses. Please visit the following link for more information about UNC credit: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdecomp/CRFCourses/credit.html>.

### What courses are available for university credit?

The following courses are available for credit: The Reading First Classroom; Phonemic Awareness; Phonics; Fluency; Vocabulary; and Comprehension.

### Who do I contact about university credit if I have questions?

Please contact Colleen O'Neil at [oneil\\_c@cde.state.co.us](mailto:oneil_c@cde.state.co.us) for more information about UNC credit.

Student 1: Suzy Beginning 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

#### DIBELS Nonsense Word Fluency

~~wub~~ ~~doi~~ ~~ik~~ ~~us~~ ~~nuk~~  
 ul ~~zAl~~ ~~fA~~ ~~wui~~ ~~hiz~~  
 min ~~ros~~ ~~kub~~ ~~iaf~~ ~~dux~~  
 faj ad ked ig el

Example from the Assessment Course

## DIBELS Data Board

Green! Green! In honor of St. Patrick's Day next month, we have a DIBELS data board example for you. This board represents Benchmark, Strategic, and Intensive students at a CRF school in kindergarten, first, and second grade.

The board is used to track students progress. Each green sticky-note indicates students at Benchmark! The yellow-sticky notes indicate students who are Strategic and the pink-sticky notes indicate Intensive students.

If you have not seen this type of visual DIBELS indicator before, this is an excellent tool to use in your school. When looking at the board you can immediately identify your Intensive students. These are the students that you will be progress monitoring 3-4 times a month. Your Strategic students are also easily identified by the yellow color. These students are

monitored 2-3 times a month.

The use of a board like this is also a wonderful tool to document progress. Your CRF team will quickly see the movement of students from Intensive to Strategic to Benchmark. Additionally, you will be able to quickly identify students who may be slipping from Benchmark to Strategic or Strategic to Intensive.

Many of our CRF schools use these types of tools to help keep the CRF team updated. If you do not use a board like this, take some time to think about implementing a similar tool.

If you have questions about how to set up a data board, please talk to your Regional Consultant.



TOUCHING BASE  
 RECEIVED A  
 MAKEOVER FOR  
 THE NEW YEAR!  
 SEND THE CRF  
 TEAM YOUR  
 FEEDBACK AND  
 IDEAS BY EMAILING  
 DELLA SHORMAN  
 AT  
[SHORMAN\\_D@CDE.  
 STATE.CO.US](mailto:SHORMAN_D@CDE.STATE.CO.US)



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WE ARE ON THE WEB!

[HTTP://WWW.CDE.STATE.CO.US/  
CDECOMP/RF\\_HOME.HTM](http://www.cde.state.co.us/CDECOMP/RF_HOME.HTM)

PUT **READING** FIRST!

## SUCCESS STORIES

The Colorado Reading First team is hearing success across the state! We know teachers, coaches, principals, and students are working hard to achieve reading success. This section outlines CRF success stories. We are always looking for great stories to share with the rest of the CRF team. Please email us your success stories. Send them to:

Della Shorman at [shorman\\_d@cde.state.co.us](mailto:shorman_d@cde.state.co.us).

### Online Learning Course Encouragement

A quote of encouragement: "I was anticipating a very high stress level from my staff when we first began the online courses. That has not been the case; the staff embraced the online learning and I see the concepts being integrated into the classroom."

Linda Adams, CRF Principal, Lake County Schools

Colorado Reading First continues to encourage feedback for the online courses. Many revisions have been made to these courses based on the feedback provided this year from our Reading First teachers and coaches. Thank you for that feedback!

## CRF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CALENDAR

# February/March 2007



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
18	19	20 Ellicot Sopris visit	21 Ellicot Sopris visit Washington (Lamar) Sopris visit	22 Stratton Meadows Sopris visit Bill Metz Sopris visit	23 Stratton Meadows Sopris visit Bill Metz Sopris visit	24
25	26 Dupont Sopris visit Columbian Sopris visit Olathe Sopris visit RC Training #3 (Pioneer)	27 Dupont Sopris visit Columbian Sopris visit Kemp Sopris visit Olathe Sopris visit	28 Columbian Sopris visit Kemp Sopris visit Longfellow Sopris visit RC Training #3 (Marsh)	<b>March 1</b> Registration for Spring CCRA Conference opens Today! Queen Palmer Sopris visit Columbian Sopris visit Principal Training (Sopris) Southwest #1	2 Queen Palmer Sopris visit Columbian Sopris visit	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 Kemp Sopris visit	

### Ongoing PD Events

~Online courses for new and veteran CRF teachers.

### Note!

**2007-2008 Professional Development Dates Coming!**

The CDE CRF Team will be releasing 2007-2008 PD dates in February. We will note these on the website. Stay tuned!