

To: School librarians, teachers, administrators, curriculum coordinators, literacy coaches
From: Jane O'Brien
Coordinator, TST BOCES School Library System
Subject: Training: Learning A-Z's leveled online resources, Monday, October 3, 2011; 8:00 – 3:00, 11-12: lunch on your own

Join LearningA-Z.com's trainer, Patti Rogers, for an indepth presentation of **Reading A-Z (a.m. session) & RAZ Kids + Writing p.m. session**. The presentation will be held on **Monday, October 3** from 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m, (one hour for lunch on your own, 11-12) in the **Tioga Training Room, TST BOCES Building A** in Ithaca. Following this training, which includes a focus on using the program for assessment purposes, Patti will provide everyone with **free 7-day trials**.

Interested attendees, please register: MyLearningPlan; space is limited to 24 participants per session.

Learning A-Z.com titles can be purchased through BOCES SLS COSER 518.

Learning A-Z.com

Student achievement can benefit from — **differentiated instruction, practice with a purpose, and motivation**. Through six integrated websites, **LearningA-Z.com** provides **anytime, anywhere Web access** to resources serving a wide range of student need, including Response to Intervention, ELL/ESL, Special Education, and general class instruction:

- ▶ **Reading A-Z.com** — Filled with **thousands of books at 27 levels of difficulty**, **ReadingA-Z.com** provides resources for **differentiated instruction** and additional reading activities especially helpful for **at-risk students**. This 2011 Teachers' Choice Award winner contains assessments, worksheets, phonological awareness and phonics lessons, reader's theater scripts, lesson plans, correlations to NY standards, projectable books for group instruction, and more!
- ▶ **Raz-Kids.com** — Students can **gain confidence** when they're **motivated** and supported through a strong **school-to-home connection**. **Raz-Kids.com** is an interactive, guided reading site where kids can read, listen to, and even record **27 levels of animated books online — anytime, anywhere!** The "**Raz Rocket**" incentive system **motivates students to read** and the classroom management tool, complete with an online running record feature and various reports, helps teachers **monitor student progress**.

- ▶ **Writing A-Z.com** — Provides **resources to teach writing**. Access is instant and includes hundreds of leveled, downloadable writing resources, including core lessons and mini-lessons that allow students to **target specific skill building**. Also provided are tools to teach process writing on **four developmental levels** within the genres of **expository, narrative, persuasive, procedural, and transactional writing**.

Other titles available for purchase:

- ▶ **ScienceA-Z.com** — Delivers printable and projectable **science curriculum resources**, organized by unit themes and grouped into grade spans, supporting the teaching of a concept **at each student's appropriate reading level**.
- ▶ **Vocabulary A-Z.com** — Contains **11,000+ words** placed in content-area, functional and resource-correlated categories. Teachers can **choose from pre-made lists** or **customize** their own. Just as a rich vocabulary works to fuel reading gains and overall literacy, **VocabularyA-Z.com integrates seamlessly with ReadingA-Z.com and Raz-Kids.com** to help every student, in every classroom.
- ▶ **Reading-Tutors.com** — Provides **400+ downloadable resource packets** for use by those who do **one-to-one tutoring** with students. Includes **key reading skills**: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.
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Learning A-Z.com

Agenda, October 3, 2011

Morning – Reading A-Z 8:00-11:00

Introduction

- Group discussion – student needs

Getting Started

- Overview of Reading A-Z – research base, purpose
- Site organization and navigation

Using Leveled Readers

- Matching students to books and building alignment
- Lesson plan overview- group discussion (modifications, student needs, frameworks)
- Connecting skills for independent practice (hands on activity)
- Using benchmark books and Quick checks
- Options for assessment

Guided Exploration Group Activity (participant computer access needed)

- Planning for skill needs – phonics, vocabulary, fluency, alphabet, poetry, assessment, and more resources

Afternoon – RAZ-Kids and Writing A-Z 12-3:00

The Student RAZ-Kids Experience:

- Site exploration from student perspective (individual guided activity)

RAZ-Kids Teacher Management

- Creating roster, custom assignments, messages, and more (guided practice)
- Monitoring Progress – overview of running record tool and report

Writing A-Z Overview

- Demonstration and discussion of core Writing A-Z materials – process lessons
- Site exploration (Individual guided activity)