



The Scottish Rite Learning Centres for Children - Halifax

Presents a workshop:  
**Getting Started with Structured Word Inquiry:**  
 Spelling, Reading, and Vocabulary Instruction for  
 all ages and abilities

**A 2-Day Workshop with Pete Bowers PhD**

Friday, April 4 and Saturday, April 5, 2025  
 DELTA HOTELS BY MARRIOTT,  
 240 Brownlow Ave, Dartmouth, NS



This practical, hands-on workshop reveals the surprising logic of English spelling for educators, parents and researchers. Structured Word Inquiry (SWI) is an instructional approach introduced by Bowers and Kirby (2010). This approach explicitly teaches the interrelation of the spelling, pronunciation and meanings of words.

Bowers has taught this approach with learners from early elementary to high school levels as a way of demonstrating how orthography works. He models not just teaching about grapheme-phoneme correspondences, but also how they are informed by meaning cues from morphology and etymology.

Bowers will address the place of SWI in current research which increasingly emphasizes teaching the interrelation of morphology and phonology, (e.g. Duke & Cartwright's Active Reading Model, 2021).

The workshop includes handouts and resources which will support future study. Participants will engage in the kinds of SWI lessons used across grade levels and leave with both prepared lessons and an understanding of how to start designing lessons to meet the individual needs of their learners.

Peter Bowers, Ph.D., is a researcher, author, educator and founder of WordWorks Literacy Centre. His vocabulary intervention (Bowers & Kirby, 2010) introduced the phrase, "structured word inquiry." That study with grade four and five students found generative vocabulary learning for the SWI group over controls. He has published widely on SWI and the effects of morphology instruction. Bowers has been invited to present keynote addresses at major literacy conferences in North America, such as IDA and ASHA. He has also presented in the UK (PATOSS), and in Australia (ALEA). Dr. Bowers has worked with educators and students in schools around the world for over a decade. Bowers's work seeks to illuminate the best evidence of research and practice for educators and researchers.

Matrices and grapheme-phoneme diagrams from the <act> <do> and <go> morphological families.

in re	act	ing	
		ion	or
		ive	ly
		u	al

Grapheme	Phonemes	Example words
< t >	/ t /	actor, acting, active
i u	/ f /	action, actual
	/ tʃ /	actual

do	es
	ing

do + es → does  
 do + ing → doing

go	es
	ing

go + es → goes  
 go + ing → going



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Instruction for all ages and abilities**

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**📍 LOCATION**

**DELTA HOTELS BY MARRIOTT, 240 Brownlow Ave, Dartmouth, NS.**

Delta Hotels Dartmouth is offering a rate to attendees of 171.00 CAD per night -  
Last Day to Book: Thursday, March 06, 2025, before 11:59 pm.

**Book your group rate for Scottish Rite Learning Centre Event**

If you would like to extend or upgrade, please contact the hotel directly at 902-468-8888.

**Workshop Registration Form and Payment**

Please complete this registration form and send to Janet Bent at the address or email below. To pay by e-transfer, use this email address: [registrations@srlcfc.com](mailto:registrations@srlcfc.com). To pay by cheque, mail your completed registration form and cheque payable to "Learning Centre for Halifax Inc".

**Spring Workshop  
Janet Bent Registrar  
3213 Hemlock St.  
Halifax, NS  
B2Y 4S8**

Early Bird Special: \$400 with registration and payment before or on February 1, 2025

After February 1: \$500

**Questions? Contact Janet Bent (902) 455-3609 [jbent@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:jbent@ns.sympatico.ca)**

**Includes coffee breaks & lunches as well as a copy of Pete's book Teaching How the Written Word Works. Please notify in writing of any food sensitivities.**

Full Name & Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration form must be accompanied by full payment. Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**All Fees Are Non-Refundable**