

COMMENTS FROM EVENT ORGANIZERS

"The most powerful professional development experience I have ever had. If you are involved in anyway in teaching children to read you **MUST** attend one of the seminars. This was truly an awakening for me! I will never look at the reading process in the same way. Attending this seminar will help everyone understand better why we have so many children that struggle when it comes to learning to read." - **Julie Colley Lowery, Education Specialist, Alabama State Department of Education, Special Education Services, AL**

"*The Code and the Challenge of Learning to Read* It is a powerful professional learning experience. It communicates multiple messages that challenge the diverse personal and professional interests of educators on a variety of engaging levels." - **Elizabeth D. Holmes, Director, Center for Quality Teaching and Learning, Columbus State University, GA**

"Working with David and the COTC group has been the highlight of my career. I have always had a very deep passion for education and the role educators play in the lives of children. COTC's message is something we need to listen to very carefully. The future of our world depends on how well our children learn. David does an amazing job of spreading this message and motivating people from the inside out. We have to be connected and committed to our children and pay attention to world around us. I am eternally grateful for the continued work by COTC and believe whole heartily in their mission. Their message is most important in today's world." - **Cassandra Sotelo, Special Ed. Literacy Coach, Lodi Unified School District, CA**

"Insightful and informative. A must see for anyone involved in teaching children to read. This is not a quick fix or remedy for reading problems, but a thorough scientific explanation of the entire reading process from leading experts in a variety of fields. Attending this workshop will provide a deeper understanding of why children struggle with reading and what needs to be done to address this crisis in our schools." - **Karen Kemp, Seminar Organizer for Council of New York Special Education Administrators, Director of Special Programs, Cohoes City Schools, NY**

"The children of the code brought a new perspective and insight to our thoughts in this region on the world of a struggling reader. The presentation told the story in a way that assisted those in attendance with gaining an understanding of the need to "break the code" and what that means for those who can't. The presentations brought the literacy discussion to the forefront for those in attendance and the desire to learn more about how to help people break the code continues." - **Margy Jones-Carey, Associate Superintendent for Instructional Programs and Services Erie 1 BOCES, West Seneca, NY**

"The training was extraordinary! Six months later, conversations are still occurring around thoughts from that event Thank you Children of the Code for outstanding professionalism while delivering dynamic, relevant information and challenge!" - **Mary Ashe, Coordinator, The Literacy Connection - Project Enlightenment, Raleigh, NC**

"ALL the comments heard from the registration people, people in our classes this week, table discussion leaders etc. have been positive. You made a wonderful contribution. The topics have stimulated classroom discussions. And, for this to be the first event for our newly formed College of Education, we are extremely pleased with the impact made in our community. You are great. The BIG picture was outstandingly FINE!" - **Linda Koehler, Professor of Special Education, University of Central Missouri, MO**

"The Children of the Code seminar was provocative. It provided valuable insight on how we've come to have such low reading achievement in our schools. We followed our seminar with small group discussion. The presentation by David provided a catalyst for deep dialogue and discussion among those of us who care about children's literacy issues in Oakland." - **Zaretta Hamond, President, Community Literacy Initiative, Oakland, CA**

"Thanks for bringing the Children of the Code seminar to Chicago's early and family literacy community. Being part of such a sweeping, panoramic view of the complexity of breaking the code and learning how to read, sparked intense dialogue among this committed group of Chicago practitioners." - **Marta Sánchez, Family Literacy Project Manager Hull House Chicago, IL**

"It was a pleasure working with you and having you with our group. The conversations that I have had after the experience have been very positive with a lot of "thought" going on out there! Your message was heard and already I have been in meetings where administrators incorporated their learning into upcoming presentations and in future planning." - **S. Wood, Director of Technology and Leadership Development, Oak Hills Local Schools, Cincinnati, OH**

"The project gave us a comprehensive examination of literacy and the challenges many of our students face when they can't crack the code. I really believe our teachers are hungry for these suggestions for teaching reading and the social change of education. Conversation could have continued well into the afternoon on these implications for instruction. I certainly consider the Children of the Code project and presentation to be one of the most meaningful and relevant discussions we, as a staff, have had in the past several years. We were very pleased with the educational session and look forward to when we can get you back here to share with a larger group." - **Nell Anderson, Director ELL/Multicultural/Equity Programs, Wausau School District**

"The Children of the Code gave a tremendous presentation in our service center about the importance of knowing how to break the code for all students, specially our struggling readers. I really enjoyed the historical background of the functions of language and how the alphabet symbols came to be part of the magic of reading. I really hope they continue their quest to ensure that all stakeholders understand the essence of learning to read." - **Amy Mares, M.Ed., Sr. Education Specialist, Region One Education Service Center, Edinburg, TX**

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"What David delivered to our small district was a thought-provoking and powerful presentation that emotionally affected, parents, teachers and community members. Two weeks following the seminar, people are still talking about it and wanting to know more." - **Jane Pfautsch, Reading Specialist, Granville Schools, Granville, OH**

"David Boulton is a rock star of the education world. Not only does he deliver pertinent, current and evidenced based information to a field that sometimes finds itself drowning in misinformation, he does so with passion. Combining both straight lecture with a multi-media web-based presentation, he engaged our participants from the start and maintained their interest and participation throughout. Unlike so many other speakers, he did not come with a canned presentation, but did his homework beforehand finding out about our participants and our company. The presentation he delivered was crafted to meet our needs making it that much more meaningful and practical to our members. Adding even extra depth are the myriad of resources available on the Children of the Code website. Participants were guided to that site so they could follow up after the presentation while they were in their schools. A keynote is meant to energize, inspire and inform and that is exactly what David Boulton does. We have already booked him to return next year!" - **Janie Feinberg President, J.P. Associates**

"Working with David Boulton and the Children of the Code was a wonderful experience. For myself it was a journey of personal and professional growth. He was meticulous in his planning and understanding of our own school district's unique place in the literacy journey. David spent countless hours discussing our particular needs and shaping his presentation to our audience of educators. There was something in it for everyone -- elementary and secondary educators, adult educators, and district administrators. The Children of the Code enterprise brings to us a perspective on student learning that is often not discussed - the shame that students feel when they can't learn what others do easily. There is an embarrassment and frustration that can permeate the students ability to learn. As educators we need to be aware of the struggles of these learners and the steps that we need to take to help them overcome their past negative experiences in reading and learning. The Children of the Code's message is an important one for educators and parents to hear." - **Dave Eberwein, Director of Instruction, Burnaby Board of Education - School District #41, Vancouver, B.C., Canada**

"The National Center for Family Literacy is thrilled to be involved in an effort of this nature that drives at the importance of understanding the reading difficulties so many people face." - **Sharon Darling, Founder and President, The Nation Center for Family Literacy**

"The presentation was very well received. It was informational and engaging. It was a pleasant experience overall. The challenges society puts on reading was very interesting. It is an angle that is not given much importance in other programs. Early reading readiness skills are so important. We have to get the word out. You are doing a good job." - **Kyle Hesser, President 2007, Nebraska School Psychologists Association, NE**

"Your seminar was outstanding, to say the least. It regenerated my interest to evaluate, understand, and find alternative teaching methods to reading problems more than I can express." - **Susan Carrell, Director, Alice H. James Learning Center, Goodwill Industries of Kentucky, KY**

"It was great to hear more about the struggles that many children are having breaking the code. All adults in America need to know more about how difficult it is for many kids to learn to read, and even more difficult to make them feel good about reading due to the sense of shame they carry around with them. The "Children of the Code" presentation is an effective introduction to why reading instruction--and success in reading--are a lot tougher than many adults think they are." - **Walter Minkel, Supervising Librarian, New York Public Library, NY**

"He is reminiscent of the medicine men of old, traveling around the country dazzling audiences with the amazing and unusual. But David Boulton, Director of the Children of the Code Project, is no quack doctor and peddles no magic portions. What he brings is amazing and unusual because, although it sounds proverbial and so "right", the truths about how we teach children to read and write, reveal such amazing flaws, they are dazzling to the eye and ear.

"How we teach children to read is based on a "code", a human invention put into place by choices made just a few hundred years ago," Boulton said during his November seminar in Durham. It is the 'operating system' for the way we run our world yet reading it is anything but a natural skill. Rather, he continues, it is a cognitive and emotional challenge for all children and the source of chronic confusion and frustration for many who struggle.

"Boulton unfolds his thesis about the history of the code, its contemporary use, and the negative statistics it produces through a lecture supported by video clips from more than fifty interviews with world-leading scientists, historians, educators and government leaders. It is impressive, authentic, indeed, dazzling. But if you're looking for a neat and simple "cure" for the ills of teaching reading and writing, Boulton says, "There is no magic bullet." Instead he says we need 'magic glasses' we need a complete change, a transformation and re-conceptualization of the way we teach language and reading in our homes, schools and school systems. He stresses the importance of oral language because it is a more natural process and begins before contact with the code." - **Nayo Watkins, Director, the Mekeye Center, NC**