

Training for community educators



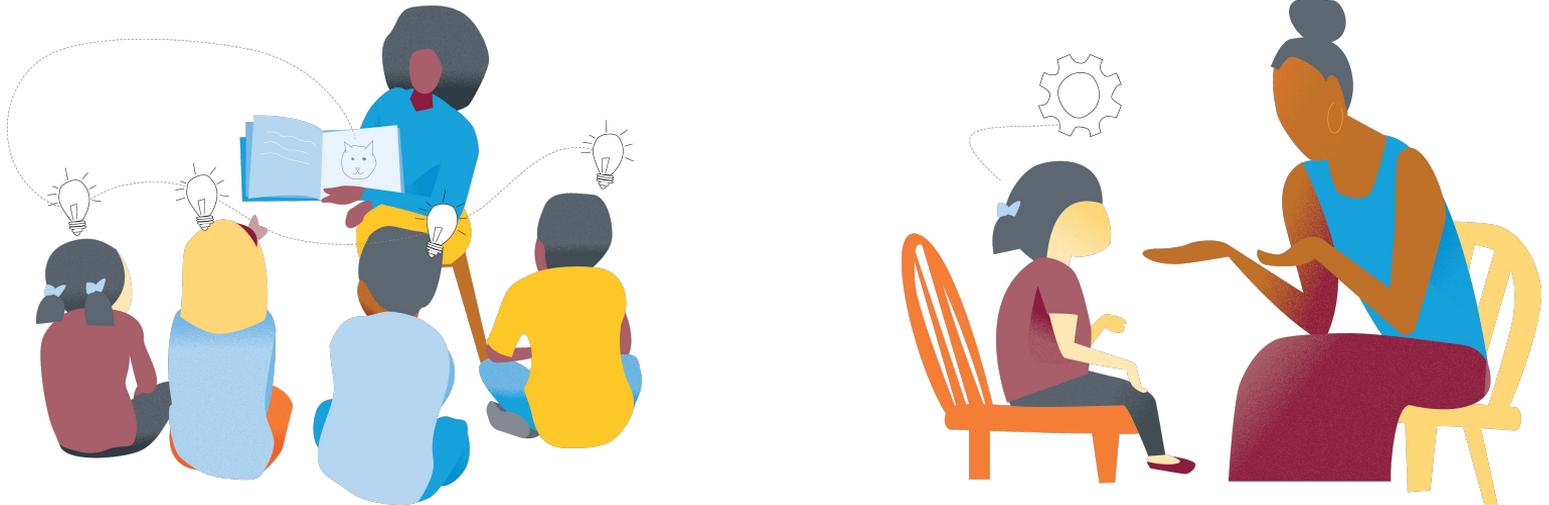
A continuum of educator roles

At MLFTC, we believe in a continuum of educator roles. Instead of asking all educators to be all things to all learners at all times, we need to unpack the tasks we ask each professional to do and reallocate those tasks, sustainably, across teams. **Community educators are a crucial part of our vision.**



What are community educators?

Community educators contribute to the content mastery and intra- and interpersonal skill growth of learners. They may be parents or caregivers working with children near and dear, or they may take on roles that partner with professional educators in physical and virtual settings. In schools, community educators enhance the work of professional educators by performing specific roles and responsibilities that serve to deepen and personalize learning for students. They complete training that allows them to carry out these roles and responsibilities and increases their competence and capacity.



Providing training: nanocourses and backpacks

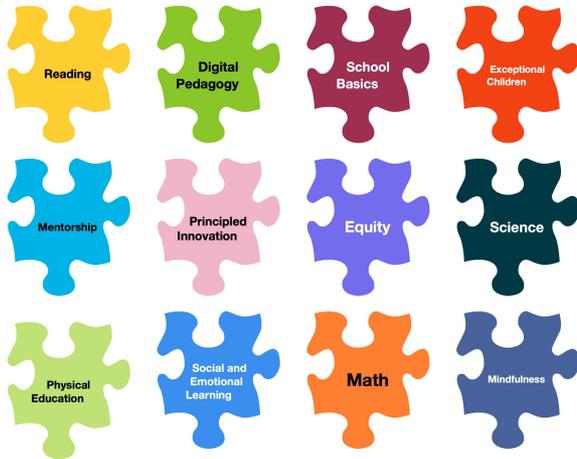
Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College is building a number of online learning experiences, or *nanocourses*. Nanocourses take 10 – 20 minutes to complete and give future community educators actionable and immediately implementable strategies for supporting learners.

A set of nanocourses is called a backpack. Backpacks usually consist of five or six content- or skills-focused nanocourses. If the community educator is working in a school context, there are also five “School Basics” nanocourses they must complete.

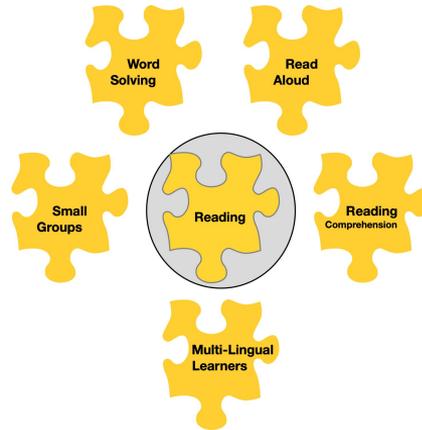
The screenshot shows a mobile application interface for a nanocourse. At the top, there is a progress bar indicating 43% completion. Below this, a sidebar menu lists course sections: 'Welcome to Read Aloud to Children', 'About this Course and What You'll Learn', 'Tips and Strategies', and 'Course Summary'. The 'Tips and Strategies' section is expanded, showing five tips: 'Tip 1: Hold the book facing the students', 'Tip 2: Read expressively', 'Tip 3: Engage students' (which is highlighted), 'Tip 4: Explain difficult words or phrases', and 'Tip 5: Think aloud'. The main content area is titled 'Tip 3: Engage students' and includes a brief introduction: 'Like any good actor knows, you have to read your audience. This is true in teaching too. A read aloud is a performance that can actively engage your listeners. If the kids are losing interest, you need to switch things up a bit.' Below this, there are two main sections: '1. Questioning' and '2. Performance'. The 'Questioning' section features an illustration of a hand pointing to a dinosaur in a book and text explaining that questioning helps build comprehension and that older children enjoy being asked to tell what will happen next. The 'Performance' section features an illustration of a person reading and text explaining that if readers are getting wiggly, they should turn the kids into actors. To the right of the main content is a 'Demonstration' section with a vertical sequence of illustrations showing a teacher asking questions like 'Why are these horses dancing?' and 'Do you like to dance when you are finished?' and a student responding 'Yeah!' and 'Can you show me how you dance? I'll dance with you.'

Designed to be modular and combinable

Nanocourses can be combined in multiple ways. We often talk about course areas and nanocourses as puzzle pieces.



There are multiple course areas, covering both course content and skills.



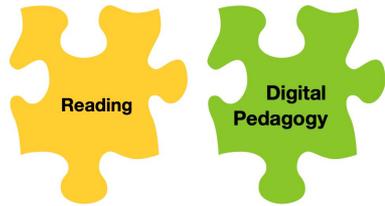
Each course area consists of multiple nanocourses.



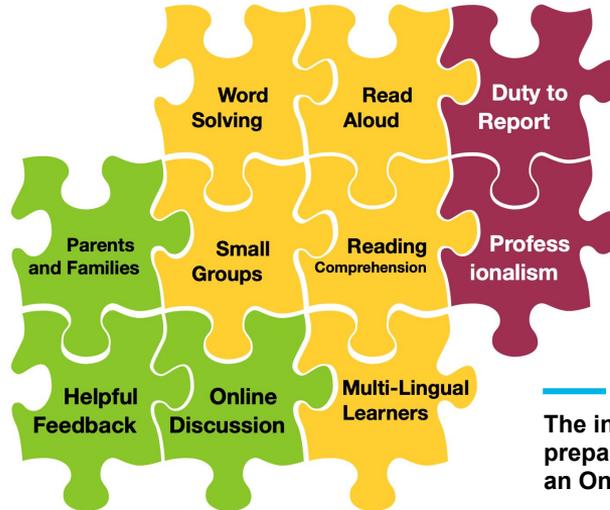
We can combine course areas or individual nanocourses to create specific focuses or roles.

Role in focus: Online Reading Accelerator

As an example of combining different nanocourses, the **Online Reading Accelerator** role includes courses from Reading Accelerator, School Basics and Digital Pedagogy.



The course areas used for this role



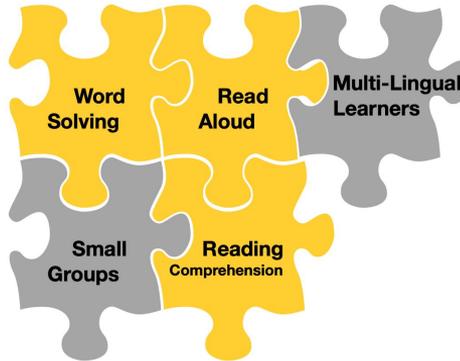
The individual nanocourses that prepare a community educator to be an Online Reading Accelerator

Role in focus: Home Educators

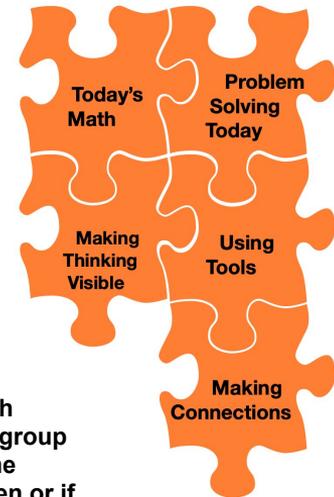
For **Home Educators**, community pathways courses can provide much-needed content or behavior support. Family members can take one or all of the courses in a specific area, as needed, to support their learners.



A Home Educator is working with their third grader and needs strategies for helping with reading and math



The Home Educator takes courses in both areas--the courses they need for a small group they are teaching at home. They can come back and take the remaining courses when or if needed.



Examples of community educator roles

Community educators can hold a range of responsibilities, depending on learners' and communities' needs. Some example community educator roles are:

1. Reading Accelerator
2. Writing Guide
3. Math Champion
4. Equity and Access Liaison
5. Student Success Coach
6. Exceptional Learner Advocate
7. Activity and Health Supporter
8. Mentor



Explore our nanocourses

Explore our course offerings for community educators at:

workforce.education.asu.edu/educator-pathways/community

