

Meet the Authors



Barbara Anderson Laura Swanson

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The seed idea for DLI germinated during summer lunches with my 3-4 teaching team at Van Arsdale Elementary in Jefferson County. We looked, without success, for more effective instructional resources to use for teaching writing conventions and began to experiment with new strategies. When I retired, my team encouraged me to take these strategies to the next level by developing and publishing DLI. Over a 6 year period, partnerships with Aurora, Cherry Creek, and Douglas County Public Schools provided opportunities for collaboration with some wonderful educators and led to the development of the 1st-6th grade editions. During the past 3 years, my friend and co-author, Laura Swanson, has joined the effort, bringing many talents. In addition to DLI, my life includes a little travel, time with our parents, and watching our grandsons three days a week. I feel very fortunate that DLI has provided the opportunity for me to continue to participate in education.

Laura Swanson

I became a fan of DLI as a teacher participating in the pilot for the Grade 5 edition. I was impressed with the quality of the materials and the fact that they were based on a thoughtful sequence for skill development, with practice, maintenance, and assessment woven right into each week. So, when the opportunity arose to help write materials for Grade 2 DLI, I eagerly jumped in to lend a hand. Since that time, I have also been involved with the writing of the Grade 1 and Grade 6 editions. The past few years have resulted in tremendous learning in combination with wonderful friendships. I know as a busy classroom teacher, I never had the time to pull all of these skills together into such a cohesive approach for teaching and practicing the skills of writing conventions. Making this available to teachers has been a professional labor of love.

I enjoy living on the plains of Colorado, spending time with two adult daughters and a quirky husband, xeriscape gardening, and traveling.