

Ken Newbury, Ph.D.

Principal Emeritus, Author and Educator-In-Residence at Young People's Press

Dr. Ken Newbury is a researcher, author, educator and a longtime advocate for children's early education. Drawing on his Ph.D. in psychology and as a principal in Ohio schools for 11 years, Dr. Newbury develops engaging curriculum and educational materials to help children develop academically and emotionally. His most recent contribution to early childhood education is Kids Education for Number Sense (KENS Math) published by Young People's Press. KENS Math is the first supplemental math curriculum developed to teach pre-school, kindergarten and first grade students number sense - the most essential skill of early mathematics.



Dr. Newbury spent 11 years as an elementary school principal where he encountered too many third, fourth and fifth graders who struggled to comprehend simple math concepts and facts. Many students fell further behind as they advanced grade levels and struggled under the pressure to perform on state mandated tests. Dr. Newbury began using math assessments he designed to determine the number sense skills of his students and identifying children who need early intervention. Subsequently he began piloting developmentally appropriate activities, manipulatives and games that emphasized number sense development in the classroom. It was from that classroom research that Kids' Education for Number Sense was born.

Dr. Newbury has received numerous national and state awards including the Ohio Commendation Medal from the Governor of Ohio and Adjutant General of the Ohio National Guard in 1998. He was named the Ohio PTA Educator of the year in the 1989 school year. He has served as an executive and/or board member on a variety of youth commissions and programs. Newbury speaks frequently at state and national conferences about early math education, school readiness and character development. He has presented at the National Pride Drug Prevention Conference for 25 consecutive years.

For ten years Newbury studied at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Mich., first graduating with a Bachelor's in Psychology with honors in 1975. He then continued his studies achieving both a Master degree and the advanced academic degree of Specialist in Education in School Psychology. In 1985 Newbury completed his doctorate in psychology and began his educational service.

Driven by his belief in the power of early intervention, Newbury started his professional career as a director of student assistance program in the Toledo public school system. There he developed programs focused on substance abuse and mental health intervention and prevention, conflict mediation and character development. Under his management the program was twice recognized among the nation's and the state's most outstanding programs. He also applied his expertise in early intervention by authoring curriculum for drug and health education and character development. The books published by Young People's Press in 1998 are still in print today.

In 1999 Newbury became principal of Stone Hebrew Academy in Sylvania, Ohio, where he and his students excelled. Under his leadership 95 percent of students performed at or above grade level and students' academic performance increased one full grade level on average. Next, as principal at Dorr Elementary School in Springfield, Ohio, the school was recognized by the state of Ohio as a School of Promise in 2010. During his tenure Dorr student achievement increased from a performance index of 77 to 101 achieving an "Excellent" school rating and a parent satisfaction rate consistently above 96 percent.

In 2010 Newbury retired from his service as a principal and spent a year and a half as a NSF (National Science Foundation) teacher's leader grant coach at University of Toledo. In 2012 Newbury turned his full attention to the development of new education techniques and materials, and his role as Educator-In-Residence at Young People's Press. He lives in the greater Toledo area with his family.