

## **THRASS TWO-DAY CERTIFICATE, OKAHANDJA, NAMIBIA, SEPT 14-15, 2007**

Excellent. Opened a whole new world to me about English phonics. It explains so many problems I've been experiencing. Alan, I've learned so much about THRASS, but also about teaching skills. I think you are an excellent teacher. Hope to see you back in Namibia very soon.

Very interesting and fruitful. If we implement the THRASS knowledge and skills we will completely eradicate literacy problems in Namibia. Keep up the good work Alan, this was really wonderful.

Really promising method of teaching.

This programme is very educative and interesting. By implementing THRASS in our schools we will reduce the high rate of reading, spelling and handwriting problems. THRASS will help me a lot on appropriate pronunciation of words and names. I wish it had lasted for almost a week. I learnt a lot.

Interesting. I learnt a lot of things about how to teach learners to read, write and spell. I enjoyed it.

The idea behind THRASS is excellent. It is a lot of information to absorb within such a short time. THRASS definitely changes the traditional methods of teaching literacy. If Namibian teachers will practise and use this method in schools, I am quite sure we will be able to change the level of literacy in our country. I will definitely try to explain and practise a little of THRASS with my student teachers. This method seems to be efficient and definitely enjoyable.

Every bit of information made sense. Thanks for the lively way you presented this workshop – sometimes a bit too fast, but we could catch up. I hope that we would get the opportunity to use this in all our schools. Will be good to first have pilot schools to make sure that this really works.

The workshop was productive and I am sure we are going to deliver the fruitful product from the workshop. I believe this programme will enhance chances for our young ones to improve the literacy skills in Namibia at large. Good luck Alan and your team.

This was wonderful. If we could have more time we could be experts in teaching THRASS, but I am going to try my level best to introduce this in my region.

It was really interesting, but I think time was too short. It is absolutely a new style of teaching letters, the alphabet and spelling. I'm looking forward to working through the teaching guides.

A very motivating course. I learnt a lot from it which I plan to use with teachers. I wish to have another workshop of this kind, because the time was too short and one needs to learn a lot.

The THRASS course was an eye-opener in terms of the two concepts Phonemes and Graphemes. This could help if the consultants could come to our regions to do the course with all our teachers, to get the first hand information. Well done Alan, although it was for two days, it could be done for three weeks. Overall facilitation was excellent.

Very helpful and interesting. We have experienced difficulty on how to teach reading, writing and spelling phonics. I plan to go back home and share the learned information about THRASS with my colleagues. The CD and DVD will help me with my training. Thanks to NIED for organizing THRASS.

It was a fruitful workshop. It has just come at the right time. I learnt the differences between phonemes and graphemes. I realise why our children have a problem with spelling. However the time was not enough, we needed more time to practise.

Very different, yet relevant and useful.

Very interesting. Helpful and learners will benefit from it. I enjoyed the course and learnt a lot.

The workshop was very much fruitful. It was an eye-opener to me. I never heard about phoneme and grapheme, graph, digraph and trigraph. I really learnt a lot in this workshop. The information and skills I gained will add more and support me a lot in my job as an advisory teacher. Thank God that he granted me the opportunity to come and attend this workshop. God bless you.

Thank you for sharing with us what wisdom you have received from God. I feel privileged.

The THRASS is the best course that opened my eyes, ears and mind to phonemes and graphemes. Please come often so that the reading skills of our learners could be improved to a level that is required. Thank you Alan and team, you are such a blessing in our country.

Very good and effective. I have learned that a letter has more than one sound and digraphs and trigraphs can have same sound. Letter names are important as we have taught only letter sounds.

THRASS gave me my first opportunity to learn phonics. This was a fantastic course that opened our eyes of how we could start the high order thinking skills at an early age. It also helped me distinguish between phonemes and graphemes. I always struggle with these concepts, including semantics, morphemes etc. The CDs and DVDs will assist me improve my phonics.

The presentation was done very well. I could see the relevance of the programme. The only problem I have is that some schools in our region might not have the electronic equipment or computers etc. I do hope that the CDs could help teachers and learners with pronunciation of words.

Well done. I need a chalkboard and video to use it in my class. It will be so interesting to my beloved learners. If I can have it in my mother tongue, I will stay in education for years and years.

The workshop was nice in teaching reading, handwriting and spelling. The system is very good, because the learners start right away with graph, digraph, trigraph and quadgraph. The system also emphasises spelling using letter names. The duration of the workshop was too short.

Quite interesting. This build-up again my interest in education! It should be more easy. Alan should get chance to visit our regions. I'm happy to receive this fruit and deal out for my colleagues.

The two day training was dynamic because how letters are used in a speech sound and in a spelling choice. The holistic approach of knowing sound and spelling choice at the same time is appreciated. Also, the use of the Picturechart to supplement the phonemes and graphemes. I learned that there are different ways we use letters as graph, digraph, trigraph and quadgraph. It will help me to assist teachers on how we can develop THRASS skills into our home language.

THRASS seems to be a good programme and was very impressive. Presentation was excellent. Information was too much for the 2 days, wish we could have a longer workshop. Thanks for the opportunity. Will try my utmost best to implement THRASS in my region.

This was so amazing and I hope that there will be changes once our teachers implement THRASS. We will need more training and funds to buy other materials. Mr Alan, you had a good facilitation!

The THRASS course was presented in a very interesting way. It opened my mind and convinced me that there is another approach to teaching spelling and reading. The unbelievable wonderful teaching materials is too good to be true. We will have to find sponsors to implement the programme in all schools in the country (uniformity). The idea of setting up training centres in various parts of the county will solve many problems. God Bless you and your team.

Two days were not enough, we need more training. We enjoyed the presentation, it was excellent.

Very fruitful training. I gained a lot of knowledge about digraphs, trigraphs and quadgraphs. It will be difficult to translate it into my language. Alan, job well done but sometimes too fast. Keep it up.

I learned many things that help me to help other teachers to teach younger learners. The most important things that I learned are phoneme, grapheme, grapheme catch-all and non phonographic spelling. This has to help learners spell words correctly. I wish the workshop could be for a week. Please try to come back so that we can all learn the THRASS very well.

THRASS is the best way of teaching children how to read. The old restricting method has been replaced by the one that will give children a good opportunity to learn the spelling choices and where to locate the word. THRASS is more interesting than the old method, which was boring. If teachers will be more positive and put more effort to understand this, there will be a significant change in years to come. Reading and writing will improve in Namibia.

A very informative and eye-opening course, with a lot of skills to apply to different age groups, starting with pre-school and then to adults learning a second language. It is so powerful that while it seems like playing, the THRASS programme opens avenues for further learning, not only for learners but for professionals too. I recommend it highly for Teacher-Education programmes.

Needs more group activities.

Enjoyable – especially the phonics and the location of the words in the charts.

It would help us in Namibia to pronounce English correctly and to get uniformity. This is an easier way of learning how to read and spell. Programme will improve reading speed.

A very good and excellent job well done! I really learnt a lot – and gain so much knowledge! Keep up the good work. Hope to see you in Namibia again soon

This was a wonderful, fruitful and enriching workshop. This needs more time. I wish all schools in Namibia can use the programme. I learnt how to pronounce words, how to write them and how to use them. The course is very important especially for the Foundation Phase (5-12) – and all the other phases. We need to support the teachers and parents so that they can be part & parcel of the education of their children. We should train those in senior management positions (e.g. Ministers, Directors, Inspectors and Principals) because then they can release the money for our schools. Keep up the good work. Marvellous. Come back again to Namibia.

A very interesting, informative, and well organised workshop. It was an “eye-opener” to me, because now I understand why some learners are experiencing problems, especially with spelling. I now know how to work on these problems. Thanks for a job well done.

Very interesting. Learned how to teach phonics in stages and gained knowledge about speech sounds and spellings (phonemes and graphemes). I learned how to teach different sounds. Learned that there are 20 vowel sounds. I was knowing only 5 vowels.

A very great program with lot of activities, especially for the Lower Primary phase. I would like to recommend that you should look into the Namibian languages, as you have done for South Africa.

Brilliant. Good experience, especially that most was completely new to me. I have learnt a lot but I should have learned more if this course was done for one or two weeks. I hope we will get funds to call Alan back to Namibia to help our teachers implement THRASS in the classrooms. It would make a big difference in handwriting, reading, spelling, pronunciation and writing in Namibia.

Quite enlightening. It seems that it may solve reading problems amongst Namibian learners (if it is well implemented). The involvement of learners in their own learning is quite impressive, which I think will encourage learners from this country to take responsibility in their own education. Even though we covered a lot in this course, the period was too short. I therefore hope that we will get further support in implementing THRASS in our schools.

I am impressed with the way that THRASS will fit in with the new implementation of the LP curriculum in the thematic approach. Learner centred education is catered for with the participation of the learners being actively involved. There is positive motivation to “show” learners – they made the wrong choice! Alan inspired me to encourage my students to research this method in depth.

I am amazed at the well-thought through method and activities to help learners master English in a very enjoyable and exciting way. There is structure and strong guidance and assessment requirements that should ensure successful implementation. All teaching aids and methods were clearly explained. I am impressed and wish to implement this.

I learnt a lot. I usually teach the learner the vowels and consonants without explaining that letters have one name and different roles to play. I also learnt a lot of new things e.g. graph, digraph, phoneme, grapheme but after the two day workshop it is clear how to help learners to help themselves. Two days is not enough. Valuable information is squeezed into the two days.

Outstanding. It was informative, interesting and lively.