

THRASS HALF-DAY COURSE, CHOBE, BOTSWANA, JUNE 17, 2004

Conference of Heads of Private Primary and Secondary Schools,
Chobe Safari Lodge, Kasane, Botswana, June 16-19, 2004

Well presented and the idea of THRASS is exciting. It is a very holistic approach to the teaching of reading, spelling and handwriting. I would love my staff to attend a full course.

A light bulb moment. Thank you for switching on the light! After 30 plus years of not having a concrete method of helping children to coming to grips with spelling!

Thank you! Most informative and interesting. Food for serious thought and certainly makes sense. Why didn't we know about this sooner!

It was refreshing to participate in a presentation where the players: modelled excellent classroom practice, were professional in minute detail, linked learning with assessment and had good awareness of multi-sensory learning. You have truly sown the seed – hope we will be able to benefit as a whole school in the near future.

This was a thrilling presentation. The programme can arouse children's interest in learning, which is lacking in other programmes. I was quite impressed by the CD - in which children will enjoy the music. I wish I had a CD to play to my kids when I go back home!

Great presentation and very valuable topic. Diverse and extremely relevant. I am certainly going to expose my staff to your ideas and methods. Thank you.

Thank you for the insight – thank you for freeing our minds!

Many thanks for your thought provoking lecture. It certainly opened up questions about what we are doing re. spelling and reading, and our own accountability to the pupils. Very interested in having a whole school trained but would need to know costs etc.

Very keen for a THRASS training course this year!

An interesting and exciting approach to the teaching of handwriting, spelling and reading. Appears easy enough to implement, however my concerns would be in 'unteaching' staff so that the programme is implemented successfully. Would love to be informed of further training or sessions in the future and regarding availability of resources.

Thank you for a lovely, challenging and interesting programme. I have certainly enjoyed the presentation. It has really opened my eyes and I am now questioning some of our practices. I am encouraged to look closely at THRASS and see how it can be of benefit to our school. We have only just introduced a phonics programme but I am also interested in THRASS.

This has liberated me from the old fashioned phonics teaching. We have a phonics programme which I am not happy with. THRASS is the best redeemer for me and my teachers. We will definitely wish you to give my teachers a workshop.

I was sceptical. I'm not now. I'm so pleased that I have more ammunition to get rid of an existing phonics programme officially. I was born and bred on Whole Language teaching – it's one fault was the casting out of the teaching of phonics (initially at least). THRASS is what I have been searching for - for 25 years. An excellent presentation.

This is new to me. I think it's great. It makes a great deal of sense and is a much better way of giving the children the skills they will always need and use right from the start. I really hope we will be able to implement THRASS in our school and look forward to that.

I'm in! Thanks for convincing me that there actually is a reading/spelling course that works!

A very beneficial presentation which was done in a very lively manner. I'm happy that your programme covers all children from the fastest to the slow children. Please keep in touch.

Good to come across a structured method of addressing a universal problem experienced by educators in most schools. Would like to see it being implemented with children involved in the short-term, as well as long-term results.

A very challenging and interesting presentation. Found it very informative. Opens different ways and opportunities for teaching reading and spelling.

Spelling and reading are so often discussed by teachers. It was really good to hear another method of approaching the teaching of these areas. Would love to see some measured/normal comparisons of results from various schemes.

I was delighted with your presentation. I am so sorry that my own children (and me for that matter!) never had the opportunity to be "THRASS-ers". What a great system! I wish you enormous success in Botswana (and elsewhere).

A good programme. I needed more time to take in all the good points presented this morning. I enjoyed the recordings accompanying the lessons. I would definitely want to study it further.

I enjoyed the workshop. I believe it develops skills that enhance strategic thinking, choices and other underpinning skills that develop leadership. It also allows the element of risk taking to develop within the container of language. Thank you.

Interesting, need to know more. Concern would be the continued development and sustainability of the programme. Would certainly want teachers to attend a further course.

It was a great experience being THRASSED. The pupils and I love THRASSing in class and there has been tremendous growth in the pupils – weak, average and gifted. Thank you.

Thank you very much for a most informative and fascinating morning. I have certainly learnt a great deal and enjoyed much clarity. I believe that the South African Independent Schools should also ask questions about our literacy training. I so enjoyed your presentation.

Thank you for an inspirational presentation. I was enthralled and will explore ways for you to give another presentation to the headteachers of South African schools.

Wow! A programme that not only makes sense but has direction and support. We have seen the light and hope to see this incorporated in our school. Thanks and well done.