

THRASS ACCREDITED CERTIFICATE, SEROWE, BOTSWANA, NOV 22-23, 2005

The course was an eye opener. I see how I can help children learn how to sound letters, attack words when spelling, how and where children could be correct when they have written spelling words using the phonemes and graphemes. I have now gained a wide scope on how letters can have many sounds. Really, THRASS is fantastic. I go crazy when reading the word THRASS! It is my remedy for teachers. Teachers are going to be relieved. THRASS will be our Bible.

The two days were valuable to me. I was taught THRASS by an English lady called Laola. She taught sounds of letters; spelling linking with all subjects taught in school, for example Maths, how to teach children to learn using pictures in sequence, sounds and spelling.

This THRASS workshop provided me with knowledge on how to teach language to pupils who have different abilities or levels of learning. It is a very good method if applied appropriately because it can teach different skills – listening, writing, building more vocabulary for individuals, depending on level of pupils. I learnt a lot – e.g. 20 vowel sounds. It can improve pupils' spelling skills and sentence construction. I enjoyed the workshop so much because I have gained skills on how to teach spelling and language using THRASS.

A useful project which I feel can help a lot of pupils, more especially the children who are slow at learning. The training of THRASS needs a lot of time, so two days was not enough. To understand it better, teachers also need to do activities which might help them understand it well. The trainer did well trying to help the participants understand what THRASS is all about. They have grasped a little knowledge which they can use for a start. The next workshop needs more time, because it seems as if when we climb the ladder, it becomes more difficult, so more clarification will be needed.

The course, as closely observed, is a very important one that, when its meaning is considered and adhered to, can benefit the learners very much. It has opened my blind eye to things, that all along, I have not been considering – like the difference between phonemes and graphemes and how I should teach them to the pupils. The problem with the course is that the content was more than the time allocated. It will need immediate follow up.

The two day workshop was successfully done. The trainer provided us with very fruitful information which has really broadened our ideas and if materials can be provided well in time, the pupils are going to be enlightened as well. This workshop, according to my understanding, can increase literacy to most if not all. Pupils will be able to read, write and spell very well. I think the two days was not enough for training and could have been done when class materials are available.

The THRASS workshop held for two days was fruitful. We learnt a lot about stages 1-10 for THRASS. Time was too little – the course could have taken 4 days. If the ministry can supply schools with various materials needed for THRASS, education would be "quality" in the near future. I am calling for needed resources to be given to schools as soon as possible so that we can do effective work to improve the standard of education in our country. Facilitator was excellent.

The course was very educative and motivating. The resource person is very knowledgeable and an excellent presenter. The materials were valid and available for use. A lot of demonstrations and good tone of presentation. THRASS is a very good course for both children and adults. I have gained a lot, even though the time was very short. This was an excellent presentation.

The two day workshop has been very educative. The content covered is enough to start the project. However, there is a need to supply the teachers with all the necessary resources in order to implement the project well.

THRASS teaching technique, though similar to Breakthrough to Setswana teaching, is an appropriate method to assist Botswana teachers who speak and learn English as a second language, to deliver to learners, who also learn English as a second language, effectively. If implemented properly, there can be a tremendous improvement in teaching and learning of English, especially in the emphasized areas of Handwriting, Reading and Spelling skills.

The course was very fruitful to me. I thought it needed more time so that we should be able to understand what we are going to implement. The way that it was presented seems that if we work hard to give the pupils new thinking skills, they will be able to know English much better.

The workshop was fruitful. I think if this programme can operate effectively. It is going to decrease illiteracy in Botswana and also the number of 'D's' and 'E's' in English is going to decrease in most of the schools. Children are going to be familiarised with English at lower standards, so that they can be able to be fluent when they grow up., I have really enjoyed the workshop.

The course was very successful. We have learnt a lot. We now know the formation of graphemes and that there are 44 phonemes in English – 24 consonants and 20 vowels. We have the knowledge that there is a split digraph – e.g. kite and gate. We know how to do the first five stages of THRASS. The activities we did are going to help us in our schools.

Very short, but it can be helpful to pupils. The facilitator was active and did a lot for us to understand how to use the resources up to Stage 5. When we start, we will understand even more.

The course was educative and we have benefited from it. It has equipped us with strategies on how we can help children learn English better – especially reading and writing. I enjoyed the workshop and think I will try my best next year to help the children read and write more, especially the infant class that I will be teaching, as the method is really good for young children.

THRASS is a very important innovation to teach children a second language, as it has pictures to link with words. Most of the pupils are going to learn English faster than we used to teach them before. It is also important in teaching handwriting as well.

THRASS is a very useful method, as it can help in improving pupils' spelling as well as building new vocabulary. The method could have been more fruitful if it was presented in January next year, as we are likely to forget. The presentation was good, but the facilitator could have given us time to present, as it is always easy to recall what one has done.

This was done well, even though it was very difficult to understand. It shows that when children are taught well, they can be very good in English. The presenter was very active and encouraged teachers to also be active. I hope the government tries hard to bring materials for THRASS to the schools. Our pupils could do well in English.

The course was so educative, but time was so limited. It needs at least 5 days. The presenter was so patient and with that confidence of having the knowledge of the topic presented. If materials can be brought to the schools in time, this can be beneficial to learners, teachers and the nation. What she delivered to us was good and needs to be implemented seriously.

The workshop was good, but time was limited – it should be at least a week. It was good because it taught me sounds of letters in English – I only knew the sounds in Setswana. The sounds of letters of letters will allow pupils to spell and read and pronounce words correctly. It is a good method of teaching pupils to read, locate pictures and words and also form letters.

According to my observation, the workshop was okay. The main problem was that the time was not enough. It covered a lot within a short time. For the second day, it was really tough and participation was not like the first day.

The workshop was educational. I learned a lot within a short period of time. Workshops like this need at least one week. Materials used, helps a lot in understanding the language. I think this method will help teachers as well as young children in learning their second language.

I feel this course is the right course. If well organised, it will solve the problems in our schools. It has been well delivered to us, as the presenter was energetic and understood the content of the course. We have been teaching without direction, so to say, and this will help us. A new English Primary course will be enriched combined with THRASS. I really liked the course from the start. Even though the time was short, we have learnt a lot and we will try our best to put it well in place in our schools.

THRASS is very important and beneficial to children as long as it is well implemented. The presenter knew exactly what to impart to us and responded well to questions which were asked by the participants.