

THRASS TWO-DAY CERTIFICATE, GAUTENG, SOUTH AFRICA, MARCH 7-8, 2005

An absolutely wonderful course and presentation. Lovely to have it presented by three different personalities. Very stimulating and so user-friendly. I cannot wait to get into class tomorrow to start using it and changing the way I have been teaching writing, reading and spelling for years. I have done most of it in segments but now to use it holistically and all together will make such a difference. I think that to be able to incorporate all the different learning styles will be most beneficial – auditory, visual and kinaesthetic. Thanks for a wonderful two days learning and stimulation.

Wonderful! Opens eyes to whole new world of learning and teaching literacy. Particularly enjoyed Alan's passion and absolute belief in THRASS during his presentations – Laola and Hilary were fantastic too though. Thank you!

Exciting, Revolutionary! Practical, sequential and usable! All the presenters made THRASS so alive and real – thank you! Multisensory approach and whole language approach – it takes so much of the skills I have been using and integrates them e.g. analysis, synthesis, categorization, phonological awareness.

Makes excellent phonetic sense to use the THRASS approach. Can be applied to children with different learning needs. Wonderful multi-sensory approach for our learners. Would love to put THRASS into practise at our school. It is also a fun and exciting way to teach children using whole language. Many thanks.

An excellent course, very exciting and made so much sense. I am, however, eager to see the program run on a practical level, as I feel it will only run effectively if all teachers and therapists collaborate regularly, and teach some lessons together. The concept and resources are great and user-friendly. The presenters were easy to listen to, and the course material was all applicable. A fantastic concept, I hope it works!

Well presented, making use of humour, drama, music etc. Presenters had thorough knowledge of entire course. As previously mentioned the course makes sense. I will have to practise so that I am thoroughly familiar with charts. I am looking forward to working with THRASS in the classroom.

Excellent, well presented by knowledgeable people. Can't wait to implement it in class.

A lot to think about – am looking forward to trying it! I am hoping to get brilliant results – won't be from lack of trying!

Thank you so much. I found the course invaluable and feel I know enough about THRASS to teach it! It's been fantastic.

Thanks. Wonderful. A real treat. An amazing system. When I feel confident to use it efficiently (I hope), I have no doubt that it will help our weak spellers/readers. It would be very useful if there could be a follow up so that we would have the opportunity to discuss any issues etc. An information manual for parents would be valuable, in fact essential.

Logical, well presented and enjoyed the fact that each stage can be interchanged as needs arise. Love the language aspect and all the logical links between language and auditory processing that are incorporated naturally into the programme, so that skills are learned together, rather than in isolation. Really looking forward to implementing it.

My most sincere thanks for an outstanding two days. This is definitely the answer!! How I wish I'd had the opportunity to work alongside you all – such joy and enthusiasm!

WOW! Mindblowing!! Excellent presentation, definitely had a great time. I received wonderful ideas on working on phonological skills. My speech therapy sessions will definitely be much more interesting and diverse (and may be a little more dramatic!) Loved the whole-language multisensory approach – I feel the same way about teaching.

Thank you for the inspiration. I can see the benefit and am keen to implement the programme. It is also a relief to know that in some areas I am sort of on the right track. My children can only improve!

I really enjoyed the course. It was presented with enthusiasm! As an occupational therapist I learned quite a lot of new info and I can see where I can include it in therapy, i.e. by just showing where their names fit on the picturechart, reinforcing handwriting etc. I like the positive reinforcement, by celebrating what the child gets right and practising the parts that are wrong. English is my second language, so it was nice knowing how to find the different spelling choices!

I enjoyed the course very much. I've always taught phonics using the different variations for the phonemes in a whole language set-up, so this method is natural to me. What is really great is the inclusion of phonemic awareness, as well as the classic multisensory approach as part of the programme. I will attempt to include these techniques within the context of my remedial therapy programmes. Spelling assessment, in terms of traditional standardized tests will have to change.

Even as a specialised teacher (not working with language), I have found THRASS worthwhile. I spent decades teaching 3 to 8 year-olds and hated Letterland etc and always did my own thing. This makes sense. I will be using it when my learners write out their portfolios and help them with the difficult spellings.

An amazing course! I am really looking forward to trying it in the classroom. The resources are fantastic and really beautifully illustrated and presented. All three presenters were very knowledgeable and obviously very passionate about THRASS – this made them easy to listen to and they were prepared to discuss any issues/concerns etc. that came up. THRASS just makes so much sense. Thank you for a wonderful two days!

Thank you so much for empowering us to assist our kids with reading and spelling skills. I found it particularly helpful as an occupational therapist to gain a better understanding of the building blocks of language. I look forward to integrating this into therapy, particularly as an OT resource for visual, perceptual, spatial and hand-written skills, but also feel better equipped to assist children with the transfer of these skills to classroom and literacy skills. I'm excited! Thank you again.

Thoroughly enjoyable. It makes sense. The children will tap into the rapping and phonemes. It has opened up a world of possibilities. Thank you for your time, energy and ability to enthuse one. I really appreciate the holistic approach.

Enjoyed dynamic, interactive approach to the material. Material is logical and makes sense. Like the multisensory approach to teaching – auditory, visual etc, not just hearing and seeing, but doing. Good structure to teach from (stages). A little too much focus on simpler areas i.e. Picture Location and too little on more complex areas.

I enjoyed the course and definitely see a different point of view regarding this aspect. Will use it as I can in class.

I found it a really valuable way of teaching and encompassing all aspects of reading/writing/spelling. Teaching activities that go with each stage are excellent. Well structured into each stage. I would love to see how it changes the children's abilities and look forward to seeing positive changes.

The course was tremendously interesting and informative – presented so many possibilities and approaches to words and language, one had a feeling of from here to infinity...There is a lot to clarify in my mind, will have to delve into 'Teaching THRASS'. Thank you for the energetic presentation – I often found my questions pre-empted and solved for me.

Very dynamic presenters – obvious love of and belief in the entire THRASS programme. I can't wait to start this with my class tomorrow – it has dramatically changed my perception of how auditory processing/phonological awareness and traditional speech therapy models can be integrated into one comprehensive approach to actually impact upon spelling and reading awareness and improvements. Thank you!

Many explanations were too fast for total grasp. Perhaps this was made more difficult by the unusual accent. I appreciated the use of movement, humour etc as it helped me to keep focus. I now need a lot of application practice. After that, I'll need you back for another week!

I think this will be the most wonderful method to teach the children. Once it comes through the school, I believe it will have a major impact on the reading and spelling skills of the children. The biggest problem I find is they make the wrong choices. They also do not recognize the choices of phonemes in reading when decoding. To add to this the equipment and resources are of high quality and very user friendly. Thank you.

Lovely course. There was a lot of information and I'm very excited about the programme. It makes a lot of sense to me and I'm sure the children will benefit from it – and me! May you be able to reach all the schools you would like to reach!

I think THRASS is an excellent way of teaching reading, writing and spelling and I am hoping more than ever that it will help me to learn to spell. I enjoyed the course and think the training was of a high quality. I do think the first day could have been speeded up and I found the second day more interesting and valuable. Obviously I realize day one is relevant to understanding day two. Thank you all very much.

Thank you for a most stimulating workshop. Brought a whole new dynamic to teaching. I am looking forward to implementing it 'yesterday'. Well paced/comprehensive workshop and resources. Good presentation and most entertaining from the three of you.

THRASS is an outstanding programme for teaching handwriting, reading and spelling skills. It is a holistic programme that just makes so much sense and stresses FUN! I really enjoy the whole language approach exposing learners to everything in the curriculum. Thank you! I am truly enriched and am bursting to start 'rapping' to my class tomorrow.

Thank you for a phenomenal two-day training. THRASS just makes so much sense and includes so many aspects of learning in one methodology. I now understand what a whole language approach to learning means. I'm really looking forward to seeing this being taught in our school. Thank you.

Course was excellent, well presented and well put together. Will have to see how it works once implemented. Good to see a different way of teaching more of a holistic programme, which incorporates speech, OT, remedial and class teaching.

Excellent. Possibly a bit too concentrated – might be better for a shorter time over a few more days. Alan has a very pleasing way of lecturing – very humorous. All the lecturers are knowledgeable on their subjects. Enjoyed it all.

Fantastic course – even woke up on Day 2 enthusiastic about what I would find out today. You have answered all my questions and I feel that I have a good understanding of THRASS and how to implement it in school. Really enjoyed the activities and pace of the course. Looking forward to getting back to school and educating children, teachers and parents. Thanks so much for developing a tool that makes sense!

Course was well presented. Extremely interesting, especially since much of the presented work was known by the learners but completely differently completed. I have seen so much of what was said within my pupils and I hope that by me implementing the programme will and can achieve my desired goal. Many thanks for a wonderful two days.

Can't wait to get started! This has been the most exciting and wonderful method of presenting and teaching reading, spelling and handwriting. I look forward to seeing all of the amazing changes that I will observe in the children that I teach. Many, many thanks to all of you for your exciting presentations.

Three fantastic presenters! THRASS makes such good sense and still within the programme there's room for lots of creativity on the part of the teacher. I learned a great deal. Thank you.