

THRASS ACCREDITED CERTIFICATE, GAUTENG, SOUTH AFRICA, SEPT 5-6, 2005

Course presentation: Thorough. The material was excellent and was logically explained. It makes such sense! Value to class Teaching: Multi-sensory approach of immense value in the pre-primary classroom. English – and the learning thereof, has been “demystified”.

Presentation was very professional. Not often can one listen to the same voice for two days and not tire of it. The content of course was so inspiring that it caught our attention and kept it hour after hour. The breaks were very appropriately spaced – this also aided good concentration. I shall use these concepts (plus-minus the last time I heard of them was at Rhodes University 1979!) with my children both at home and in the library!

The THRASS training course has been enthusiastically presented and gave a clear insight into the THRASS programme. The skills which were introduced will be very relevant in teaching Reading and Spelling and more importantly, will reach children with difficulties in the current methodology. The materials are well presented and allow for interaction on many levels. Thank you for the interesting insight into new ways to approach these skills.

I thoroughly enjoyed the THRASS course presented by Laola Altschul. Her passion makes you believe in this method of teaching. I think THRASS gives children confidence to attempt to spell, as they can identify with the phonemes. Once a pupil has learnt this system, I think it gives them a solid foundation, yet it also allows for extras with the catchalls. As a parent, whose son is being taught by this method, I am amazed at how much his spelling has improved.

I find the idea behind THRASS a very exciting way to approach teaching Reading and Spelling in the primary school. There appears to be great method in the methodology. With repetition, I think the child will benefit from using this system. I do feel that some may be more confused by the multiple choices in the “boxes”. Very enjoyable. Thank You.

Although I teach Zulu, I found this course so stimulating, especially as I have a young daughter, who I am keen to use as my guinea pig! Laola is so passionate about THRASS and her enthusiasm was infectious!

Laola is a passionate presenter, who really believes in THRASS and puts the concepts across in a relevant, meaningful way. As a teacher of Afrikaans, I have gained interesting new ideas that I can implement in my teaching of a second language. I see the value in using the THRASS approach and know people whose children have benefited greatly from learning through this approach.

A very interesting way of teaching Reading, Handwriting and Spelling, but I do feel that two intensive days of a course has given an overview, but I would've liked to have gone into each phase in a little more depth, therefore giving us a more confident approach to each step. Many thanks for your presentation. I can see your passion for THRASS.

A most worthwhile and interesting course. The teaching of Reading and Spelling has taken on a whole new meaning. As an English teacher, I look forward to implementing these ideas in the classroom.

An excellent programme! It was well presented and most interesting. I look forward to using it in the classroom environment, as it makes a lot of sense. The material is really “user-friendly” and will appeal to primary school children. Handwriting reading and Spelling can now become “fun” experiences.

The course was very well presented and comprehensive. I look forward to implementing it into the classroom and feel it will add great value to initiating pre-reading skills to our five and six year olds.

The course has shown me a new dimension at looking at Teaching Handwriting, Reading and Spelling Skills to children. It was a very “hands-on” course and Laola was an excellent presenter and teacher. I am looking forward to introducing this “bigger picture” to the children I teach. I have learnt a lot.

The course was presented in a very logical way. However, there was a lot of repetition, which, although I understood the reason for it, I find rather boring. (Perhaps this is because I teach music and not literacy!)

I have a better understanding of THRASS and what it is about. I also feel confident to implement it in my classroom in various ways. The facilitator was enthusiastic and explained the concepts very well.

Thank you for introducing us to THRASS. The course was most worthwhile- the system is very relevant and practical.

Good – Perhaps go from T1-T10 to avoid muddling i.e. Actual progression as kids would follow it. (First day with T-8). Pro's and con's given – Thanks. Merit in programme which makes a lot of sense. Thank you.

Very intense, busy two days. A very valuable method when teaching Spelling. Will be put to good use in the classroom.

Informative.

Thank you for a powerful, new method on Spelling! I wonder if the handwriting and reading aspects of the method would benefit from a more detailed explanation. I look forward to using this with Grade 1's.

Thank you for introducing me to a new concept in teaching Reading and Spelling. It is a paradigm shift for me. We can definitely apply these ideas.

THRASS really does make sense. At last!

Informative. Will work effectively in the classroom.

Valuable in terms of providing children with the "big picture" of all possible options of vowel/consonant graphemes. Course holds a lot of promise for children with learning difficulties. Excited to be able to put it into practice!

There were some valuable aspects of this course. I would be interested to see how it works in the classroom.

Offers a practical methodology for teaching Reading and Spelling skills. This enlightens my understanding of how to explain sounds and spelling rules simply, other than expecting children to "get it". I do believe follow-up courses are needed, as well as refresher courses before THRASS starts in the school. Thank You.

Thank you introducing us to a new method. I will need to let all this new info settle for a while, and see for myself how I can implement this into my own style. I still need to see how the teaching of reading will be implemented.

This was an interesting view on language teaching and I learnt a lot. I am concerned that the resources cost a lot and will not be affordable to all. Thank you for an interesting two days.

THRASS is indeed an exciting new and definitely potentially effective way to teach reading, handwriting and spelling. I do feel that it has to be assessed critically and that each school; environment/therapy setup has to determine whether it will be of benefit to the child they are seeing. There are, most definitely, areas that will be of great help and those that I would like to learn more about before implementing them. I would like to attend the more advanced course for speech and language therapists. Thank you for a well-presented course.

Challenging to implement. Enthusiastic presenter. Clear, colourful visual and auditory aids. I would like to have seen/observed a class/group presentation.

Great to know that there is a tool for all children – especially for those who are learning impaired.

The course was interesting for me as a class assistant. I learnt much. Thank you.

A well-organised, well-structured interesting course. The sessions were well timed too!

Exciting methodology. Appears to be of great value. Group too large for practical implementation. Despite this, the coordinator allowed interactive learning and this was greatly appreciated. Too much to digest in a two-day workshop and need more practical involvement. Thank you.

An interesting course which could work very well within the classroom environment. I am concerned that the school that the school cannot afford all the resources and that not all the teachers are keen to implement the course. Laola was very enthusiastic and gave many practical tips.

THRASS is a very supportive methodology, very well presented. It has a lot of merit.

Rather exciting to discover that it is now acknowledged that there are more than 26 sounds in the English language. Thanks THRASS!

Impressive.

The course was interesting. Lots of new ideas with the current work being taught. I think that it will really work well from Grade 0. This method can be used with pupils with both auditory and visual strengths.

Generally informative with lots of new ideas. Clear communication with questions being answered precisely. There was quite a lot of repetition, which I didn't always feel was necessary. An enjoyable and informative two days. Thanks.

Interesting, dynamic course presenter. Valid, thought-provoking methodology.

Very well presented – lecturer very knowledgeable with all aspects and able to answer all questions. I found the course very informative and am very excited about many aspects of the programme.

Great new ideas of teaching spelling. Course was very well presented. She spoke clearly and made it fun. She made us question what we had been teaching. Great!

The course was well presented. Material was clearly explained and discussions were valuable. Food for thought. I leave with a new understanding and a commitment to go back to school and question what we have done thus far. We certainly will use what we have learnt and hope to make THRASS part of what children learn in schools today.

I found the course very interesting. All my concerns and hesitations have been answered. We now just need to discuss implementation. The key is, however, implementation. If the teacher does not entirely buy into the new paradigm of teaching, it won't work – no matter how good. Thank you.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the course. Many misconceptions have been clarified. Laola was excellent – she took time to listen to the questions and was most patient with us all. Thanks.

The course was extremely valuable. I do believe that it should be integrated with an existing programme and not used solely on its own. Presentation was excellent, but a lot to take in at once. I am not sure about the reading programme, but do believe that it can be integrated with the one we are using.

An extremely interesting methodology. Very user friendly and offers easy access for learners. I look forward to introducing the programme next year. The course facilitator was knowledgeable and understanding. Real merit exists and generally speaking, the teachers were enthusiastic.

I really enjoyed the THRASS course and found it interesting. Laola presented the methodology in a clear, concise way. It was great that the problems and difficulties of our English language were highlighted. I can see the merit of the programme, especially in teaching Spelling.

Thanks for presenting so well. The course certainly gives so much insight into the relationship between reading and spelling and will, I am sure, be beneficial to our children. Thanks.

An interesting course that stimulates analytical skills in learners, as well as visual and auditory sequential skills. It is a new, fun way of teaching reading – i.e. rapping. It is also a good methodology of teaching LSEN, as we do a lot of repetition.

Very enjoyable course. Well planned and well presented. I liked all the materials – they are colourful and lovely to use. I am very enthusiastic about THRASS and look forward to implementing it in my class.

Very well presented. Sufficient breaks. Course was presented in a magnificent setting. A large variety of resources were demonstrated and discussed. A new exciting and very relevant methodology!

Extremely enlightening. I have learnt a great deal – Had some wonderful ideas and will certainly be implementing these ideas in the classroom. Thank you for a well-presented course and sharing your personal experiences with us.