

THRASS TWO-DAY CERTIFICATE, GAUTENG, SOUTH AFRICA, JUNE 8-9, 2007 (NAPTOSA)

Very informative, inspiring and educational. Excellent course for all educators.

Very enthusiastic and creative presentation. Really enjoyed every moment. Would like to change future of South Africa's kids with this.

Wonderful to have a system, which puts into place what sub-consciously, I have been teaching for years. It was as if you gave names and reasons for everything I was already teaching and of course all the correct terminology. I can see children with remedial problems being helped quickly – fast tracked.

This course was an excellent source of practical information to help with the frustration I've experienced with reading /spelling/writing problems the children have that I see in therapy. As a speech therapist we have a lot of theoretical knowledge in literacy and I knew phonics was not the way to go for teaching/helping struggling children, especially in English. This was exactly what I needed to help me go forward in therapy. It answered all the questions I had.

An absolutely delightful course. Alan Davies is a vibrant, enthusiastic tutor. I enjoyed the course and will use it. Thanks very much to NAPTOSA.

I was somewhat sceptical before attending THRASS. Two days later I am feeling enthusiastic and excited to introduce it to my Grade R learners and parents. Thank you for the entertaining lecture, and all the hard work that went into helping make an almost illiterate country more easily literate.

A very worthwhile, practical course well presented. It will be of great value in the classroom and for every child exposed to it.

Well presented. Dynamic. Interactive. Thought provoking. Keen but nervous to implement. I see the value and agree with your approach and wish it were something we had learnt at School/Teachers College. However, there is a lot of information and will need to process this information in order to use it effectively. Thank you for your input – you have us hooked!

Excellent. So informative. Really excited to implement THRASS into Grade 3 at our school. Alan you are very entertaining and kept us motivated and interested. Thank you for a fantastic course! I can see you are extremely passionate about THRASS and I can see why!

An excellent presenter. A useful programme that I have decided to use in our remedial school for a period of time. Then I would evaluate and decide if the whole phase would use it or not. Thank you for a lively course.

A well presented and exciting course.

The course was interesting and I learnt a lot.

Wonderful that you kept us all so interested. Thank you for all you have done for educational progress throughout the world. Great!

Thank you for an effective and super strategy/ies for teaching handwriting, reading and spelling. You are a wonderful and motivating presenter. You have made a great deal of sense in my mind with regards to the various phonemes etc. Thank you! An enjoyable course!

I am really inspired to go back and teach "phonics" properly. A great course.

Really enjoyed the course. Benefited considerably. Feel keen to start with my own pre-school child. See great relevance in helping older children with reading and spelling problems.

It was a wonderful course. I have learnt so much and I cannot wait to use it in my classroom.

Excellent course.

The course was excellent and the best presentation I've ever been to. Everything was explained superbly. I'm motivated to do the THRASS program in my class and determined to help and teach it to the rest of the teachers at my school.

Very informative. Very challenged by the vast amount of material available to make this phonic program easy to implement and use. Your enthusiasm and product presentation made the course enjoyable. Thank you for your time and willingness to make THRASS so accessible.

Wonderful – it opened up huge possibilities for teaching our children. I would have loved to have more time to work through all of the new ideas that have been presented. Alan is inspirational. I would be very keen to go on refresher courses and workshops as so much is presented over two days that there are many wonderful ideas and methods of using the chart that I am sure to forget.

Thank you for an absolutely fantastic, worthwhile course. My colleagues (Gr. R-2) had all attended and raved about it. You'll be pleased to know that our school is implementing this and we are waiting for our budget to be approved before starting. We (Grade 3's) can't wait to get started.

Very inspiring, which makes a lot of sense. Learnt a lot and looking forward to implementing it. Just feel it was information overload (a lot to take in). Maybe spread over more days? Enjoyed it very much.

Absolutely brilliant! The practical exercises were 'insightful'. Would love every teacher in school to attend the THRASS course. Thanks for inspiring us.

Very exciting and motivating. I can't wait to try out everything!

The course was very enriching! I enjoyed every moment of it! I can't wait to start with THRASS in my therapy sessions. I work with children with learning difficulties ADHD, ADD, second language learners. And ... children with severe auditory processing problems. I know that this approach will work with each and every child. Excellent. Excellent. Excellent.

Excellent material, well presented. Humorous. Thank you for the material. Challenging.

The course was an eye-opener. Very inspiring, a lot of information. I'm definitely going to introduce my Grade R's to THRASS.

Thoroughly enjoyed course – lots of new information. Very inspiring speaker kept us well motivated. New ideas for us to attempt to use in our classroom.

Well done! I can see the light. Happy for our learners. Keep up the good work. Understand phonics for the first time in my life.

Alan, very enthusiastic and vivacious. Very encouraging course. All the best. THRASS, THRASS, THRASS is fun. Singing letters everyone. Sun, dress, horse, city, ice, don't do it once, do it twice! Yay!

A fascinating course. As a teacher and a parent I am very excited about going forward with this.

Thank you for an inspirational two days! I look forward to seeing the results of THRASS at our school.

Alan, well done! Enjoyed all of it! You are a legend. Good luck.

Very informative course – learnt a lot. Thank you – excellent course. Looking forward to working with it.

Very enthusiastically presented and managed to enthuse the "audience". I came in with a very small idea of what it entailed and have left a believer! There was a lot of information but I feel that the time frame of two days was appropriate.

Excellent presentation! Vibrant, passionate and hugely inspirational. Brilliant. At last – a course that makes sense! I think the pace of input was very fast BUT I would have preferred more time and more “Stage Specific” training. To ensure that the recipients of your THRASS certificates deliver the product as you intend – the training MUST be longer than two days. A million thanks! Bravo!

Thanks for a very informative course – can’t wait to get started. It definitely makes one think and reflect on how we have been teaching phonics.

Thank you for a great time! For a non-speller you have given me insight into how spelling should be learnt. I can’t wait to start working with it in my classroom. I know I will be looking at spelling with new ideas and eyes from today. Would love to have a follow-up meeting after implementation. Course was very enriching. Will definitely make a difference in my class as far as reading and spelling goes in my class. Will make a difference in the interest the learners will have in reading “AS FUN”.

Thank you for a dynamic, informative and entertaining presentation. The most valuable aspect for me was to finally understand what is taught in the Foundation Phase literacy classes, enabling me to implement new methods with a clear picture in my head. It’s also lovely to see that THRASS makes teaching simple, as it doesn’t need to be complicated.

I really enjoyed the course and learned an enormous amount about how children learn to read – I generally teach children of 14+. I think this is an incredibly valuable system for helping children to become fully literate. Thank you for this wonderful gift.

Thank you! Very lively and significant.

Very stimulating. Please remember : Setswana Children : Southern Region : N-W Educ. Department. Would love training for our teachers. Would love to have Centres established in our area!

Wow! My head spins. Thank you for your enthusiasm and energy. I was excited about coming and I am leaving and I can’t wait to try it out. Thank you for everything you’ve put into this. We are benefitting from all your efforts.

Very good. I have enjoyed the course.

Very informative and interesting. Mr. Davies is an excellent lecturer. Thank you very much for introducing us to THRASS.

Excellent course. Very informative. Mr. Davies is a very good lecturer who encourages interaction. Enjoyed the course very much.

Excellent.

Interesting. Thank you. Would like to know about teaching Afr. Spelling.

Er! Thanks. Being Afrikaans it looks like I’ll have to study English before I can teach.

Outstanding. Learnt a great deal from this course. So beneficial and so glad I attended. So well presented. I can’t wait to use this in my Gr.6 English class. Thank you for changing my set views on reading, handwriting and spelling. Would love to do a follow-up.

The course was very interesting and fruitful. I enjoyed it tremendously and gained a lot. Hopefully I will start implementing THRASS in my class. Just wish THRASS came earlier so I could have started implementing it in January.

I have learnt a great deal! This is the second course I have done and I now feel all the “puzzle pieces” fit together. Thanks for the great experience. We should be starting NEXT TERM.

Thoroughly enjoyed. Well presented. Very intense. Would love to have a longer insight with live demonstrations.

As a beginner, I would have preferred a more structured approach, i.e. one step at a time. I learnt a lot and am very keen to start in my class. I feel that I would have to look on the THRASS website for guidance. I must say, my articulation and sound awareness is poor, so I will learn with my learners.

Was a good course, thank you Alan. Well done! 20 years of research has paid off. A fantastic concept.

Thoroughly worthwhile course having been thrown into teaching THRASS teaching by starting at the school recently, who have started implementing THRASS already.

Information was clear and to the point. We were very encouraged by this course and it will be implemented at our school.

A valuable insight into the world of phonics. I trust that it would contribute to setting our children free.

Thank you for an inspiring course. It was absolutely mind-blowing. Your enthusiasm is infectious. Thank you for taking time to come out here. It really is appreciated. So much to take in at once – love to attend further advanced course.

Thoroughly enjoyable. Any reservations I may have had have been eradicated. I feel motivated and can't wait to get into the classroom to start my and their (children) journey using THRASS. I love the music/rap and the whole involvement of the learner. Alan is an outstanding speaker. He is extremely knowledgeable, entertaining and (thank heavens) able to speak at our level. Perhaps he could be a little more approachable when teachers ask questions, as we are very sensitive beings.

I enjoyed the course. I first encountered THRASS at the London Language Show in 1999. I'm thrilled that it is now becoming more widely recognised in South Africa. I'm hoping that THRASS will help to get South Africa out of the quagmire of illiteracy it is in. There is a lot of information to digest and I have a "tingle" when I think of the difference it can make to our school. I would really like it (if it's at all possible or feasible) if there could be an extension course specifically for high schools (Grades 8-12). We battle with a large percentage that can barely read or write, but who are at an age where certain teaching techniques may not be entirely successful – not because of the techniques but because of the attitude of the pupils. However, having written that we'll keep you posted about how we go at implementing it at our High School! Thank you for the course and the materials.

I've learnt more on this course, had more clarity and confirmation on a number of language skills which I couldn't explain to the learners.

Outstanding. I cannot wait to implement it in my classroom. Thank you for all the years of very hard work. You are very generous to share your knowledge and hard work with the rest of the world.

Thank you for a good two-day overview of how to implement the process in a practical manner, It will be exceptionally useful for me to back up/support the teachers in the school where I work, especially the students who lag behind in the classroom. In my own private practice as an Ed. Psychologist it will be amazing to help children (and their parents) who struggle with spelling, reading and writing, especially after I have assessed and picked up difficulties. As a high school trained ex. teacher, I feel competent to help in these areas for the first time ever, and can also help parents to help their children.

I have enjoyed the course very much. The learners will definitely benefit from THRASS.

Excellent. Well presented.

Thank you for a thought provoking course. I wish my headmistress and Head of Department were here. Thank you for an enthusiastic presentation. I am going to work towards getting all our language teachers Gr. R-7 on board of the THRASS boat.

It made me change the way I think about phonics. Can't wait to tell all my colleagues about this. Thank you for the enthusiastic way the course was presented. Think I will start implementing some of the strategies on Monday. Good luck for the future and thank you for the change you are bringing about in Africa, a continent most people try to ignore.

Excellent! Thank you very much.

Challenging. A lot of information to assimilate especially considering that it is new. Would enjoy a follow-up once we have used some of the resources. Look forward to using this system especially with learners with difficulty and illiterate rural adults.

Inspiring! The material, the logic of THRASS and your passion motivated me!

Thank you. It was excellent and an eye-opener.

Excellent. Thank you!

We can see the light at the end of the tunnel and it's not an oncoming train – It's Captain THRASS! Thank you very much for showing us a 'logical' way to teach reading and spelling skills for lifelong application. Letterland has left the building!

We were at first very daunted and felt guilty for teaching letter sounds. During the course I finally got to see that with THRASS my teaching philosophy could improve for the betterment of all learners. With practice and implementation learners will be able to improve on handwriting, reading and spelling skills. I must now try and motivate the educators and board members to purchase this fantastic package to improve the literacy programme at my school. I do so apologise for not staying for the full course and promise to watch the DVD!

I am thrilled to have done the THRASS course. I found it so informative. I would have preferred to have had an extra day to absorb all this information. It was inspiring and I can't wait to go and use it in the classroom. I did find Alan Davies to be a little abrasive at times when people asked questions, but on the whole he was very eager and brought across the information beautifully.

Alan, I feel totally liberated! I have recently returned to teaching after being in business for 17 years. Up to now (since Jan) I have sobbed in frustration at how to tackle literacy teaching within a "new" (to me) OBE system. With the archaic (sp) Letterland as my only reference, I now have the tools to start my literacy teaching from scratch with loads of fantastic ideas and a brilliant programme to teach handwriting, reading and spelling skills! You are simply a genius with a passion you should bottle and sell as a registered Trademark, call it "The Alanphone"!

Well planned, very informative, well presented and explained.

Thank you Alan! I had completed the THRASS training course two years ago with Laola, as well as the 15 Minutes x 2 and visited numerous schools in the area, and I must say that now, I finally have a handle on THRASS! It was a pleasure to listen to you and to work through the system with you. Thank you for the wonderful system and for taking the time here.

I enjoyed the new approach to phonics. I really loved your passion towards it; however, I felt you felt people were attacking you even though it was just a simple question that needed clarification and not a judgement. I think the only way to fully understand a new concept is to question and you should appreciate their interest and not put them off by being abrupt or cut that person short. Thnx! I enjoyed it. ["The only problem was that you had your hand up within the first five minutes of almost every new stage, when you did not know anything about the skills, stages or processes of the THRASS programme (when this was, actually, the purpose of the course) - and you did this from the start of Day One! By all means ask questions but try to ask them at the right time." Alan]

Thankyou so much for two fantastic days of learning. Alan's presentation was excellent in terms of content, enthusiasm, energy and humour.

Thoroughly enjoyable. The presentation used a wide variety of aids to keep our attention and explain concepts fully. I am so grateful to have a system that explains the "exceptions/irregularities" that have plagued the 'remedial' language clients I have worked with. Thankyou and I am excited to apply it. I also appreciate you taking the time to answer all my questions. I have got so much from the course.

Very informative and interesting course. Learnt a great deal. The course has cleared up many questions about teaching, reading and spelling.

Watching your enthusiasm made me realise/reminded me why I chose to be a teacher. Watching you made me wish I were a student in your class. You are great!

I found the course to be extremely interesting. I felt like a sponge absorbing all Alan had to offer. I am very keen to implement THRASS at my school.

Thank you for a fantastic course. I have learnt so much and can't wait to implement it in my classroom.

Great course. Thoroughly enjoyed it! Interesting. Lots of ideas to be used.

Excellent presentation, educational, humorous. Very good. I enjoyed it very much. Thank you Alan – a pleasure meeting you.

Excellent – thoroughly enjoyable. Currently being used in our school – amazing progress in spelling.

The course was excellent! I'm looking forward to using THRASS. Big thank you!

The course was very interesting and enjoyable. I've learned a lot of things within two days.

A very vibrant and informative course. It was interesting with great ideas, some good methods and lovely aids.

An interesting course and very informative. It gave me a lot of food for thought. Well presented

I really enjoyed it. Looking forward to teaching THRASS.

Thankyou! Excited to try it with my Grade 7 learners. I really appreciated the fact that you presented the course personally.

Fantastic! Thank you – what an inspiration.

It was the informative workshop and we gained a lot about English Reading and Spelling. The presentation was outstanding and clear. The Workshop material was readily available all the time. Venue and food was up to standard.

The course was informative, pity the information was too much. Next time do it over four days. Thanx!

Enjoyable. Learned a lot from a very energetic Tutor.

It was enjoyable and informative.

Very well organised. Gained a lot of information to be able to empower learners. Outstanding presentation. Very user-friendly.

N Boiie leersome ervoring. Elke oomblik geniet! Thank you!

Fantastic! It made so much sense!

Brilliant!

Excellent!

Really enjoyed the presentation. It has taken off so much pressure about various sounds and spellings, e.g. my -dge -light when trying to teach an Afrikaans child English. Even the mystery of the silent 'e' has now been revealed. Well done. Thank you on behalf of my grandchildren who will not have the same problems as their Moms!

Excellent! A possible thought would be a more hands-on approach to practical usage of THRASS in the classroom. An excellent course.

Excellent presentation. Really enjoyed the course. Hoping to implement it as soon as possible.

Brilliant. Entertaining and very informative. Our school is implementing THRASS from 2007 and we are all enjoying it – teachers and learners alike. It is so sensible. It makes sense to teach spelling/reading this way.

Thoroughly enjoyed – makes such sense!”

Most enjoyable. Would like a follow-up course. Have lots to learn! Think I could have better spelling skills if you were my teacher (and laughed a lot more).

Insightful, interesting, very well presented, logical, thought-provoking. I can't wait to implement with my Grade 8's and throughout the school.

Explains why many pupils spell as they do. Need to read manual to re-enforce concepts.

Outstanding!

Good fun! Great!

Thank you for the interesting and interactive training course. You were a great facilitator. I thoroughly enjoyed it. I am proud to join the THRASS converted.

Missed the course my colleagues went on as I was on leave – been trying to teach THRASS in the dark. Course put everything in perspective and I feel a lot more confident now. Very good presenter and entertaining, understandable etc.

My initial teacher training had no phonics training. Alan made these concepts clear and understandable. Looking forward to furthering my understanding of THRASS. I feel more confident about having discussion with fellow staff.

Alan, you are a dynamic and interesting presenter. I enjoyed your passion towards your learning area. I believe that any method/product is only as good as the Teacher. Some of my ideas “pre-conceived” notions were challenged. I am not fully convinced about all aspects, but I am encouraged to question my methods. I have gained knowledge and insight. Definitely a learning experience and some thing to think about.

Excellent presentation. Good.

This is an excellent course. I enjoyed it thoroughly. Mr. Davies maintained his energy levels and our interest for both days. I would have liked some focus on high schools in particular – for example, from afternoon tea onwards each day.

Thank you Alan for sharing THRASS with us. I have been teaching in the Foundation Phase (often Remedial classes). I have taught many children to read. With THRASS the children are going to learn a lot faster, younger and with greater ease. Here's hoping that the follow-up at school goes well.

I thoroughly enjoyed the course. I have waited a long time to come on it. A lot of questions have been answered and I feel well equipped to deal with spelling, reading and writing situations with my learners. In fact in ALL learning areas. I do feel that a lot of practise is needed. However, I do feel that if used correctly, it will be a great success. I admire your enthusiasm and passion. Thank you for your persistence and hard work.

Thank you for an informative course. It really makes a lot of sense and we are excited to implement it. Never a dull moment with Alan.

The course was fruitful and interesting. I wish it were for the whole week, and wish that it can reach every teacher in South Africa.

Beyond all expectations. Cannot believe that one person can keep over 150 people entertained for two whole days. Alan you are brilliant. Thank you so much and hope to see you for a refresher course.