

## **THRASS TWO-DAY CERTIFICATE, KWA ZULU NATAL, SOUTH AFRICA, MAY 12-13, 2007**

Thank you for an informative and amazing course. We are now empowered and enthused! The training was simple and very clear. I will definitely recommend that everyone do this training. Thanks again.

Wow! This course has been fantastic. I have learnt so much. I am looking forward to being able to apply this method in my school. Excellent course. Thank you to Laola who has been an inspirational course leader.

I really found the course enlightening. It made so much sense to me. I can't wait to teach the THRASS rap to my learners.

I thoroughly enjoyed this course. I found it extremely helpful to learn the foundational methods of THRASS. It was also useful to have all the resources at hand, so that we could all implement specific tasks on our own. We were able to ask questions if we were confused in a specific area. The course was run systematically and it is great to work with such a logical format.

Excellent course. Well structured. Having the material on hand aided with our understanding of the programme. Aided more teachers in identifying the essential underlying skills of reading, spelling and writing, i.e. auditory and visual perception skills.

Enjoyable. You answered questions clearly. I have concerns about the computer programmes, as only one child would be able to work on it at a time. Would be wonderful if parents could have access to computer assessment and programmes when reinforcement can take place on a one-to-one basis.

It was a challenging course. Realised I can apply it to my age group (3-4 years) which I didn't know before. Picked out some valuable tools from this course.

A wonderful, logical approach to introducing reading and spelling. I found the first day quite laborious but really enjoyed getting into the "meat" on the second day. I look forward to getting together with other schools to hear how they are implementing THRASS. Perhaps a more "structured" presentation would be easier to follow. Thank you for sharing THRASS with me.

This course was extremely well run and professional. It was informative and relevant. I'm very excited to get going in the classroom and share this philosophy with my fellow colleagues.

The course certainly has shown us new ways and given us many new ideas. The scheme was put forward in a very simple and easy to understand manner.

The course was very interesting and informative. It has given me a new perspective on teaching English and the understanding of the English language.

I found the course very interesting and refreshing. It is lovely to come across new methods of teaching and I am looking forward to implementing this new method. It makes a lot of sense and I wish I had known this earlier. Laola was fantastic.

It's my second year in teaching. I studied a B Ed. Degree. We were "taught" how to teach reading, spelling etc. but I didn't understand all the terms etc. The university course was boring and just a whole lot of words. THRASS has been extremely helpful to me and has helped me grow as a teacher. I finally have attained a method of teaching the necessary skills to children (phonics, spelling, reading). Thank you for all your hard work in developing this programme.

Very informative – two days not long enough, however. Follow-up course (compulsory) might be a good idea. Laola is a very good facilitator. Worried about cost involved in purchasing all the aids necessary to implement program successfully.

Very informative and interesting. Yes, I agree that this would help spelling problems and improve reading skills. Laola has explained the THRASS programme well and with lots of humour.

The course was clear and understandable. It is going to be very interesting implementing THRASS in the classroom. The course had relevant examples and each step was explained slowly and clearly. It was good to have hands on experience with the charts and equipment, so that we as the teachers begin to feel comfortable with THRASS before putting it into practice.

Excellent. What an inspiration. Wish we had had this system 30 years ago. The mind(s) behind this system are exciting – as it is the detail, organisation and “thinking through” that has gone into this. Our presenter was confident and knowledgeable, dynamic and quite charming. The catering was a treat. Giving up the weekend was not painful at all!

Very interesting and it has merit but I have some reservations. I would like to evaluate children who have done THRASS when they reach the final stages of their school careers. That is, when you will finally know if it works opposed to methods already in use.

Lots of food for thought – a very different way of implementing spelling strategies. Feel a little “nervous” about introducing the scheme but would love to see how the children enjoy the challenge. Thanks for the presentation. We have learnt a great deal in just two days.

A phonic spelling and reading programme delivered with huge enthusiasm. It has obvious merits, but true assessment would occur with the implementation of THRASS.

Thank you very much for a most interesting course. You have cleared many questions I had. Information was clear and well presented.

Very informative and interesting. Keen to see it used in our school and keen to try it myself. Very well explained by Laola – thank you so much.

Very informative and presented in a clear, lively and tactile manner. I think it would be of great benefit to the pupils. As a Gr 4 teacher it would be necessary to work in conjunction with the other grades – they would implement it and we would follow in. As a phase, we need to decide how we will approach it.

Found the course an inspiration to teaching – has definitely revived an interest in teaching Writing, Phonics and Spelling to the little ones. The presentation was informative and gave a good coverage of what THRASS entails. Laola was a dynamic speaker – clear, connected and articulate and with a good working knowledge of THRASS. A course that was definitely worth it.

Course was very informative. It has a lot of value and gave us much to think about. Teaching remedial boys is a challenge and I would like to see the participation of ADD boys in a THRASS teaching environment as it certainly has much to offer. Well presented by a knowledgeable trainer.

Found course well presented. Knowledgeable trainer. Very interesting concept with inspiring message. Completed course feeling motivated and further inspired.

I found the course to be interesting and informative. Thought the computer programmes are well thought out and very interactive. Course was well presented.

The course was interesting and opened up a new perspective on teaching language skills. I look forward to implementing these new ideas.

Lovely course. Very interesting and informative. I am excited about THRASS and think it is a wonderful programme. I can't wait to use it.

I found the course informative and enlightening – well done Laola. You have a wealth of knowledge regarding literacy. I look forward to implementing THRASS.

Very interesting and informative. Gave the word THRASS so much more meaning!

Interesting and informative. A wealth of new ideas.

A very interesting and informative course. Am excited and look forward to implementing THRASS.

A very interesting and informative course. We look forward to implementing it in our school.

A very informative course. It was very well presented and extremely interesting.

I learnt a great deal and I know I will definitely be able to use this in my future teaching career.

Very informative and interesting course. Thank you for your time.

So interesting, a logical process to becoming a good "English" pupil. The concepts are so good but the practical application will need lots of trial and error. I worry a little about our "rainbow" nation with the many various pronunciations of the same word. Thank you for new food for thought.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the course. This is a fantastic approach to reading and spelling. By the end of the course I was very excited about now going back to school and implementing what I have learnt.

Everything is so much clearer now – looking forward to implementing THRASS. Thanks for a wonderful course – it must have been if we managed to sit through a very important rugby day and Mothers Day!

An informative lecture. I certainly gained a lot of knowledge and information.

I have gained knowledge and lots of information.

I felt it was/is a useful and possibly more sensible way of teaching phonics. I am a little hesitant about how it would work with weak children/ADD children, as it appears to be fairly complicated. I think it may enormously help older children who are weak spellers as they already have some phonic grounding but may not have grasped why there are so many different ways to spell a sound. I felt the first day could have been much shorter as too much marketing was done. I also felt that the presentation was a bit lacking in structure and too much digression occurred. It needs to be more focussed

Very informative. I learnt a lot.

I learnt so much and my own knowledge has been extended. Many unanswered questions have been answered for me. My own auditory discrimination skills were challenged! Interesting and stimulating.

The course was informative, interesting and thought provoking. It was a lot to take in over a short period of time. It answered many questions as I have been working in a school that has already implemented THRASS. The practical exercises helped to reinforce the information received. The lecturer was interesting, bubbly and had a warm and friendly manner.

Enjoyable. I have had prior exposure to THRASS and thus a 'general' understanding. I found the course a very useful overview which deepened my understanding. I feel excited about using this system.

The course is brilliant! Although a music teacher, I still learned a lot and I can definitely link my lessons to THRASS. This programme makes a lot of sense. Although able to hear most of what Laola was saying, it would have been more enjoyable for me if she had worn a cordless microphone.

You were amazing. The course was simple to understand. Your personality allowed us to be alert and paying attention, constantly allowing us to ask questions and feel comfortable. The information was so well presented. Although sometimes much to comprehend quickly in a short space of time, you allowed for interaction and explanation. It was worth sacrificing these two days.

Very inspiring. Very organised course. Can't wait to get started.

Enlightening and informative and well presented. This new approach is exciting and challenging.