

## **THRASS TWO-DAY CERTIFICATE, KZN, SOUTH AFRICA, JUNE 8-9, 2009**

A really inspiring and challenging two days. A wonderful opportunity to attend a course with such a dynamic facilitator. I enjoyed all the practical demonstrations and audience participation. Thanks to THRASS and NAPTOA for organising the course!

Mind blowing! I wish that my whole staff could have been here!

An excellent course with a wealth of ideas to help teach phonics and writing! The resources are of a very high standard. A fantastic presentation! Lively, informative and interactive. I gained a great deal. Most enjoyable and humorous. Keep up the great work!

Thoroughly enjoyable and entertaining educational experience. Alan's obvious dedication to his field and his awesome knowledge are superbly inspiring. I look forward to starting the THRASS ball rolling at my school!

Life-changing. Stimulating and enriching. Exceptionally well-presented. Entertaining. Enlightening. Exhausting – mentally, but in a great way!

THRASS programme is an excellent method of teaching especially in our farm school where our learners have poor background in education as a whole. Parents are illiterate. Learners don't get support from parents. By introducing this programme to learners, will help them with spelling, speaking, reading etc. English is their second language so it is so difficult for them to speak or write in it. Now we are going to help them in a fun way with THRASS. We need to get the Absa kit!

Alan was an excellent, entertaining trainer who is clearly passionate about what he does. I don't think anybody on this course can wait to get started!

An excellent, thorough and entertaining course. Alan is passionate about THRASS. It is the first logical approach to teaching spelling, reading and writing. In a nutshell – Brilliant!

Very informative, interesting. Excellent. Our learners are intellectually-impaired and THRASS will really motivate them to learn. The THRASS programme is tailor-made for them!

Fun, interesting, refreshing. I like the multi-sensory approach and the fact that the children are actively engaged. Also that the resources can be used in various ways and are creative. Some of the thinking is very different and will take a bit of 'working through'. Thank you. I enjoyed the course.

Brilliant. Love the songs for our Zulu learners who love music and rhythm. Presenter – wonderful. Kept me awake for two days! We need more THRASS presenters – every school needs details.

I thoroughly enjoyed the course. I found the time well spent, informative and I will certainly be putting THRASS into practise in my classroom. It makes sense!

Very exciting! It really gave a tired teacher new inspiration. I wish that I'd been taught this at varsity level. I'm really keen to try this with my kids – who are all second language learners. I hope that I can inspire some of the other teachers at school to be converted!

The Sing-A-Long material is an excellent method of learning, especially in regards to our special needs learners who have a short concentration span.

Very interesting. Alan was kind and well prepared. I think it can be encouraged in every school.

Very useful and constructive. Interesting. I learnt a lot. I wish THRASS could also make Zulu charts!

Excellent programme. It is the poor schools that have reading problems and once again financial constraints will disadvantage these learners.

A dynamic and entertaining presenter which makes learning much more interesting and fun. Thank you for all the hard work which makes us better teachers for the new knowledge that we have learnt on the course. I thoroughly enjoyed myself.

Eye-opening. Easy to understand. Wish we could have more of such courses.

Alan is dynamic. Workshop fun. Much to take in in two days. Passionate about THRASS.

Very informative. Will assist us to help our learners read. Learnt a lot. Facilitator was great!

Very educational. The THRASS method is very interesting.

The training was wonderful, really enjoyed it.

Facilitated very brilliantly. He's very articulate and informative. I'm very sure the learners will find THRASS very interesting, as I have. Songs, pictures, videos just make everything totally rock!

Very worthwhile, informative and inspiring. I can't wait to get started. Excellent presentation of what is involved, easy to follow and grasp the principles. Thank you, Alan, for passing on your passion for the programme. I feel confident my pupils will benefit enormously from my attending this course.

Very informative – dynamic presenter – kept us entertained as well as delivery was excellent. Obviously knowledgeable concerning content. Teaching material valuable. Hope Absa can help!

Very interesting and informative. I trained as a high school teacher, so never did anything to do with phonics. I have really enjoyed learning about the English language and I know that it will help me to now teach the children, so that they can improve in their reading, writing and spelling! Thank you for sharing your knowledge with us!

A brilliant approach to teaching children reading, writing and spelling skills. I enjoyed the course and would be using it in my classroom daily.

What a dynamic, brilliant presentation. I have learnt a whole new approach to teaching literacy. Wish I had enough finance to purchase the entire lot! I am certain that I will be able to raise the literacy levels in my class.

Eye opening. To think that all these years we got these phonemes wrong. Little wonder we have literacy problems. I feel enthused and ready to go. One problem though, convincing my school and lack of resources.

Amazing two days! Stimulating and humorous presentation. Clearly set out, step by step, but lots of hard work, reading, practise and change needed! Essential for all staff to attend to be "converted" – not so easy to convert old teachers set in their ways!

Fantastic! Really inspiring and can't wait to begin. My triple-combination class (gr.1-3) will definitely benefit. You have been an inspiration Alan, and I thank you.

Wonderful course – Alan is a great leader and we have learnt a lot. We will start introducing slowly.

Fantastic course. Very intense. Innovative. Interesting. Very articulate, well presented course. Entertaining. Whole new world in respect of phonics. Superb presentation.

Well done! The course was a real eye-opener. I am excited to implement the THRASS programme.

Very interesting and very entertaining! I've learnt a lot about THRASS and still need to learn more.

A phenomenal, comprehensive, integrated programme which allows for active interaction by learners. Teaches English in an orderly meaningful way. There is no way with so much repetition that the children won't get on board. Makes the teacher look good and be brilliant. Thanks, Alan.

Great – well presented, tons of resources. The success will depend on consistency. It clearly shows the mistakes of teaching phonics in the past. It does seem like a revolution in literacy – starting the THRASS programme is essential. Various skills will be developed using THRASS.

Enjoyed it enormously and can see the benefit and logic in the teaching. Wonderful ideas for developing language skills and to encourage communication. Thank you for the lovely two days.

Excellent. Vibrant. Really makes sense. Non-threatening, but need to do it to make it work. Lots of great ideas for implementation, e.g. THRASS Co-ordinator.

Excellent. Alan's presentation was fantastic – entertaining, informative and eye-opening. I am looking forward to implementing it at school. I'm positive that it is going to be successful and enjoyable. Much appreciated.

Excellent for foundation phase learners. Spelling, reading and handwriting will improve a lot. Please prepare more courses. Please include course for Intellectually Impaired (learners with Special Educational Needs). We need more methods of how to teach them.

Brilliant two days. This will be especially helpful for me when I open my own school in the near future for children with disabilities (special needs). Added value for me – I can help my Grade 10 second language learners to spell! Thanks Alan, I received more than my money's worth.

This is going to help my learners. It will help them to learn alphabet very easy.

Great course. I have learnt a lot and am looking forward to teaching THRASS in the kindergarten.

BRILLIANT! You are making a difference in so many people's lives – keep up the amazing work.

Really liked inclusion of visual, auditory, tactile, kinaesthetic learning. Feel THRASS teaching is grounded in good teaching principles. Will be interested how we are going to use, in a school for children with special needs and our limited money resources. Will certainly put heads together and work out how we can use our new information to the best benefit of our children.

Informative, will certainly change the way "phonics" is handled at our school. Will be interested to see how LSEN cope with the demands of the programme. Love the holistic concentration, intellect, visual and auditory modalities and singing of songs – fun facilitation. Thank you for a most worthwhile course which will lead to exciting things!

Alan was a good presenter. Make us understand what THRASS means. As from now, we will go to our school and share information with other educators.

Content – an excellent method of teaching children skills in reading, writing and spelling. Teachers would require ongoing support in its implementation as it is very intensive. Too much content to assimilate in two days. I wish it was longer. Resources – Self explanatory. An excellent grade to assist teachers. Sing-A-Long activities would bring much joy to our children. Presenter – Excellent.

The course was good, but the facilitator was fast. At the same time we understand what he teach us. But if I can have a lesson plan of this literacy that would be good. It can be easy to implement it. Wishing to have another course, it will be good. Thanks a lot.

I enjoyed being in a workshop. I think I had a fantastic time. I was very much impressed about how Alan presented. Hoping to go back to learners and give them proper education.

Wow! Absorbing. Excited to take it back to staff – it's going to be quite a mind-change from the traditional way of teaching phonics, BUT it makes so much sense. Let's hope we get more onboard.

Very well presented. It was enlightening and informative. Presenter, Alan was dynamic and I cannot wait to implement the programme as I can see that it will only benefit my learners.

Very informative and enlightening. I was very impressed with Alan's presentation. Well done!

Very helpful and enjoyable I had an absolutely amazing time. I am having a different excitement and vision about my going back to my learners at school. Great work. Just keep up the good work.

I really enjoyed the course! It is wonderful to know why we are using THRASS in our school. Also, next year I can teach learners the U about reading, writing and spelling. Alan is energetic and inspiring. What a fantastic facilitator. He makes me want to teach it to others as well. This course will change children's lives forever. Keep spreading it and making a difference.

Excellent. A new way introduced for teaching handwriting, reading and spelling skills. Too much of content to absorb, especially for the first time. Resources: Excellent, bright durable. CDs and DVDs enhanced presentation. Presenter was excellent – humorous, energetic and good motivator.

THRASS is something that I am going to use! Thank you for the material that you have provided. This course helped me to understand some spellings in English which I wondered about.

Fantastic! What a worthwhile experience – your passion shines through!

Excellent presentation, exciting. Can't wait to go back! Inspiring, motivating, hopeful. All the best.

Outstanding presentation. Interesting ideas. Learnt a lot. Can't wait to start using THRASS.

Very interesting and exciting. A learning experience! I think the children will love this way of being taught, especially the music. Alan was dynamic. I thoroughly enjoyed the course!

Brilliant! Where were you for the first 30 years of my teaching career? I feel terribly guilty about the injustice we've done to our children. I will definitely use this before I retire!

An excellent programme to teach learners how to read, spell and write in one go. Thoroughly enjoyed the course.

A dynamic well presented course. I really, really enjoyed it.

A wonderful two days, very well presented. I feel enlightened and look forward to introducing this system to my grade ones.

I enjoyed the two days, especially feel excited about using the songs and the picture chart. It was sometimes not easy to see "the Whole" as there was so much to cover in a short time. Great energy Alan, in your training, and humour. Don't think it's necessary to bash other reading programmes though! For the teachers in rural schools we work with it, would need much in-depth training and monitoring to ensure the quality of teaching in the classroom. I imagine the songs being used well but the in-depth teaching that goes with the programme, being harder to implement effectively. Will take and use and adapt what I can.

Alan is an incredibly dynamic, energetic lecturer. Lots of wonderful ideas and products. A fantastic amount to think about. Thank you and well done for all the inspiration.

Very interesting, enlightening and mind boggling! Looking forward to implementing in my school, after accessing the software. Well done to Alan for a well presented course! It was a pleasure.

A superbly well presented, informative workshop. The latter part of Day 1 was exhausting – too much information. Maybe course could be over three days. Very enlightening – one needs to undergo a mind-shift, but nonetheless, a super workshop and, Alan, were entertaining and great.

An eye-opener. THRASS should be compulsory in all schools as it is the only sensible way to teach English, especially in Africa where we are dealing with a multi-linguistic society. All children are guaranteed success with THRASS!