

## **THRASS TWO-DAY CERTIFICATE, HAMPSHIRE, SEPT 25-26, 2008**

The course lived up to my expectations of being a comprehensive way to teach reading, phonics and spelling. It is clear, straightforward and an excellent way to ensure all abilities are catered for. I believe that all my staff now have a comprehensive understanding. It was made explicitly clear.

An interesting, clear and useful course. The presentation was well-explained and detailed giving lots of good practical ideas to use with the children. The children will love it and it will be fun to teach!

Fantastic. Great opportunity to recap knowledge and get really clear explanation of THRASS and HEAPS of ideas. Trainee teachers need this knowledge BEFORE they come into the classroom!

Really interesting and hopefully will be very useful once we have THRASS up and running. I am particularly excited about using the rap and SING-A-LONG resources as these will be very suitable for my YR/Y1 classes.

I have really enjoyed this course. I found it really interesting. I look forward to using it in my school.

I have been very impressed with both the comprehensive nature of the THRASS scheme and the delivery by Hilary. I feel it was successfully communicated in a fun and engaging manner. On the whole it has proved useful in informing my attitude to phonics and will inform my teaching.

Enjoyable, interesting, inspiring. Can't wait to see the children starting on this. Can really see a need and use. Loads of really useful information at a good level which sustained interest and enthusiasm.

Excellent. I learnt a lot and I'm really looking forward to getting on with it at school. I particularly like the songs and raps and I know the children will love them. I also like all the resources!

Another excellent course, Hilary. Thoroughly enjoyed.

Really enjoyable. Very interesting. It made a lot of sense. I look forward to putting it into practice.

Very interesting and worthwhile. The scheme is very structured and will be most helpful to all the children in our school. I particularly enjoyed the Sing-A-Long Book and CD. The children would really enjoy singing the songs and dancing along whilst learning at the same time. Great.

Very informative and useful. I now have a much clearer understanding of how THRASS works and how it should be implemented. I did at times feel a little lost as I felt some parts were rushed. However, having copies of the resources is invaluable and will help me to find answers to any uncertainties. The opportunity of seeing THRASS being taught in South Africa was very inspiring. Maybe having the large picturecharts colour coded with the red and blue, vowel consonant relationship could be helpful.

The information on phonemes, digraphs, diphthongs etc. was useful. There was lots of information. More emphasis on the actual stages would be useful (at times I wasn't sure which stage was being referred to). The resources were very good and it is great to be able to take them back to school.

As before, INSPIRING and daunting – can I do all this on my own? The resources and information are very systematic so I should have a good chance. It is good to know "the truth". I now have an excuse for my poor spelling! Hopefully my class now will have a chance that I never had and it should be FUN too.

Interesting and informative. Very well presented. Inspiring. Only problem, my brain is now in meltdown.

Interesting and I enjoyed it. At times it was very fast! Perhaps a follow-up day would be beneficial? I think a lot of the Year 3/4 children I work with will find THRASS helpful, in learning better skills in reading and writing. Some of it was a little confusing, and I feel I would need to use it for a while to be confident in teaching it well.

Very informative - a lot to take in and process. Some very good ideas to share with friends.

I've enjoyed the course. I knew a little before I came but have found out lots of information ready to take back to my school. I would be really grateful to get in contact with other schools that use THRASS with hearing-impaired children. Having just completed a qualification to become a Teacher of the Deaf, I am going to recommend the Phoneme Machine software to the speech therapist that lectured me on speech sounds as I think it would be very useful for her as a tool in lectures and as a reference for other trainee teachers of the deaf. [Version 6, with Cued Speech option, will be available later this month.]

Very good. Very informative and useful for putting THRASS into practice in the classroom. I am excited about implementing THRASS with my Reception class. My only concern is that following the THRASS S.O.W. the children will not have tools to start writing CVC words until week 5 and that for many parents unaware of THRASS and its structure, may be a little alarming. Thank you for a great two days.

Very well put over to us. A lot to take in, but web page, books, CDs etc. will help. When you sit and listen it all seems to make a lot of sense. Hopefully we will be able to put it across to our children and staff at school. DVD excellent. Lips very good.

This was a very interesting approach to literacy. Whilst, by the end of Day One, it felt as though one had been bombarded with information and one wondered how children would cope. During Day Two it all began to fall into place. It would seem this is a successful method of teaching/learning and anything which enables and empowers children has to be considered.

As an SNA I've found this course hugely helpful and can recognise various individuals with whom I work with who will greatly benefit.

Clear explanations. Good ideas and use of resources. Enjoyed seeing DVDs and the use of some resources. Well presented.

An inspirational Course Leader who gave a clear, thorough and motivational insight into THRASS. Knowledge and resources which can be used in conjunction with our current phonic schemes. Exhausting though!

Very interesting course. A lot of information to take in during two days. Very good, clear presentation with good explanation of stages and logic behind them. May be a steep learning curve when we return to school, but looking forward to the task. Looks great fun.

Lots of good sensible ideas relating to the development of phonological skills and awareness. I am still confused as to the order of teaching and the how. Perhaps a demonstration with clear 'learning objectives' would help. Maybe I'm going to find the answers when I try it.

Very informative and inspiring – can't wait to get started. Felt Day 2 was possibly a little overwhelming with information at times. Sure this will make a huge difference in my classroom!

Generally very good. Engaging delivery style and very clear explanations. The one thing I really need to take care with is precise articulation. Possibly too much time spent on anecdotes, although these were enjoyable!

A really good course, explaining a new way of teaching children with spelling and reading difficulties.

A real eye-opener. It will be useful with Yr. 5/6, especially with detective and analysis work.

Overall very clear and easy to follow. Looking forward to implementing. All makes sense and has logical progression. Lots of ideas for activities. Hilary able to answer all questions well and explain why decisions about phonemes/graphemes had been made.

A very worthwhile course – excellent materials. A lot to take in over two days. Would have liked more hands-on games/activities and less of terminology but realise this was part of course. It would have been great to explore materials on Interactive Whiteboard.

An interesting course. Lots of useful teaching ideas to transfer to the classroom. Very intensive and a lot to take in over two days. Now know how the children must feel in the afternoons!

Very informative course but quite a fast pace – I know there was a lot to cover in two days. Lots of good ideas and as I teach Year 1, lots of good games for the children to play and songs to sing which they do enjoy! Thank you – I don't know how you keep going for two days. Well done!

Very concise and informative. Excellent delivery.

An interesting course, with a lot of depth that I look forward to using in the future.

A very intensive course that will be very useful in the near future.

Thorough coverage of how to use the chart in early stages, the later stages particularly useful for us (Junior School). It makes sense!

Really like the idea of THRASS and the chart makes a lot of sense. It would be useful to be taught exactly how to implement this within school.

Excellent. Very clear explanations. I now feel confident navigating the THRASS chart and fully understand why it's all there. It makes so much sense. Can't wait to get Sing-A-Long CD. My children are going to love it!

A brilliant two day course. Have been trying to get this into my school for years after seeing Alan's presentation a few years ago. As a trained dyslexia teacher this works perfectly for ALL children, not just selected children for one-to-one work. A very fun way of teaching. I thoroughly enjoyed it.

Very well presented and delivered in an entertaining way. A lot of information to take in but looking forward to using the scheme with the children. Sure it will make a big difference to their learning.

A clear and interesting delivery. Explanation of course rationale and structure was explained well. There was plenty of repetition to reinforce activities for children. Lots of good ideas and lots of fun!