

Early Years Handwriting Instruction

Quartz Room, Victoria Park Function Centre

Herston Rd, Herston - Brisbane

Saturday 26th May 2012

1.30pm – 4.30 pm

Given that the draft Australian National Curriculum suggests that a goal for Prep students is the ability to write short text of one or two sentences; it is crucial for educators to understand appropriate developmental strategies for early writing success. Early years classes include children with diverse developmental skills who need to be taught to write. Unfortunately when instruction requires students to use precise fine motor skills for pencil control, many children are unsuccessful in learning to write. This workshop will emphasise a multi-sensory approach to teach young children functional handwriting using developmentally appropriate strategies to automate letter production so that letters are initially written accurately from memory regardless of writing size.

The workshop will provide an overview with regard to:

- Varying traditional instructional strategies to teach young children with diverse developmental skills to write
- Examples of multi-sensory and developmentally appropriate strategies to automate letter production
- Examples of developmentally appropriate instructional strategies for sentence writing

The workshop aims to be practical in nature, providing participants with strategies that encompass the whole class, as well as activities suited to small group and individual tuition. The workshop will also include video presentations of classrooms using these techniques to produce functional handwriting.

The workshop is aimed at early years educators (Kindy, Prep, Year 1) and learning support teachers. It is however suitable for other educators, therapy and learning support staff and they are welcome to attend.

Arrival tea/coffee and afternoon tea provided. (A light lunch will also be provided for those attending the morning workshop)

NB – it is recommended that those attending this workshop also attend the morning presentation “*Teaching Functional Handwriting to Students in the 21st Century*” or have previously attended “*Teaching Teaching Functional Handwriting for Written Communication*” (Di Jones).

About the Presenter

Dian Jones (PhD, M.EdSt, B.Ed, Grad.Dip.Sp.Ed, Cert Teaching)

Throughout her extensive career in teaching (inc special needs and AVT – Health and Physical Impairment) and more recently as a guidance officer, Dian has worked closely with occupational therapists and speech pathologists to adapt classroom expectations and skills for the development of functional handwriting. This has led Dian to develop a multi-sensory approach to teaching handwriting, guided by many occupational therapy and speech pathology principles. These teaching strategies were reported to also be successful in a regular classroom environment. This success, coupled with her increasing desire to train educators about teaching writing has led Dian to complete her doctoral thesis on handwriting from 1996-2004 with UQ.

Dian has also written and published several texts to assist teachers including “*Handwriting: A fundamental skill in written language*”. She continues to provide professional development to schools across southern Qld and has presented at national conferences for Guidance Officers and Psychologists.

Registrations for this event are now open. Please see the registration form below. Please contact Zi Mei Events on (07) 3847 8375, info@zimei.com.au or visit our website www.zimei.com.au for further information.

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Workshop Participant Information

Name: _____ Occupation/ Position: _____

Organisation: _____

Address: _____

Town/Suburb: _____ State: _____ Post Code: _____

Phone: _____ Mobile: _____

Email: _____

Do you have any special requirements? (e.g. dietary requirements, access, etc.): Yes No

Payment Details

 \$115 (GST inc) **Early Bird Registration** (registration and payment received prior to 5th April 2012) \$130 (GST inc) **Standard Registration** (registration and payment received after 5th April 2012)

Payment via Cheque/Money Order

 (please make out to Zi Mei Events):Cheque Money Order Bank Cheque

Payment via Direct Debit

 Please include the **participant's name as the reference** when making a direct debit deposit**ANZ Bank Account:** Zi Mei Events **BSB** 014 313 **Acc No** 485 291 802

Payment Via Credit Card

 payment is available via credit card using Paypal facilities. Participants wishing to use this payment method will be emailed further information regarding payment. Please ensure correct email details provided above. Please note an additional service fee of 2.5% applies to all credit card transactions.

Please return Registration Forms to:

Zi Mei Events

PO Box 685

Stones Corner Q 4120

info@zimei.com.au or Phone/Fax (07) 3847 8375

Registration Confirmation

Workshop Participants will receive a confirmation email on receipt of their registration form and payment. The confirmation email will include further details with regard to access to venue and parking. If you have not received a confirmation email within 5 days of registering – please contact us so that we can confirm we have received your registration and payment. Please note that we are unable to guarantee a place on the workshop until both registration and payment have been received.

Registration Closing Date

Friday 11th May 2012