

Teaching Functional Handwriting for Written Communication

Griffith University EcoCentre
Griffith University- 170 Kessels Road, Nathan (Brisbane)

Saturday 5th June 2010
9.00am – 12.30pm

Handwriting is one of the most complex tasks in which children engage. It requires skills in the areas of cognition, language, visual-spatial, fine motor and kinaesthetic development. Traditional teaching methods required the inclusion of children with widely differing developmental levels, to be taught together in the classroom, often relying on many hours of copybook practice. This workshop will discuss the theories of the cognitive and motor processes involved in the production of automated handwriting. It will also demonstrate that many handwriting difficulties can be prevented by altering the instructional and intervention strategies used to teach handwriting.

The workshop aims to be practical in nature, providing participants with strategies for:

- introducing writing and achievement of automation
- sequence of teaching handwriting/letters
- introduction of lines/guidelines.

The presenter will discuss approaches that encompass the whole class, as well as activities suited to small group and individual tuition.

The workshop will also provide participants with numerous strategies to assist emergent writers and those in later years with continuing handwriting difficulties. Effective learning, teaching and assessment methods will be discussed including:

- utilising a multi-sensory approach to teaching letter formation/production
- development of automaticity of handwriting skills
- improved accuracy and fluency of letter writing.

The workshop is aimed at early years educators and learning support teachers working with children in the area of handwriting issues. It is however suitable for other therapy and learning support staff and they are welcome to attend.

Arrival tea/coffee and morning tea provided.

About the Presenter

Dian Jones (PhD, M.EdSt, B.Ed, Grad.Dip.Sp.Ed, Cert Teaching)
Senior Guidance Officer, Wide Bay-Burnett Region

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

\$ 95 (GST inc) **Early Bird Registration** (registration and payment received prior to 16th April 2010)

\$125 (GST inc) **Standard Registration** (registration and payment received after 16th April 2010)

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 21st May 2010

This form will become a Tax Invoice upon receipt of the appropriate registration fees
Please retain a copy of this form for tax purposes