

Teaching Functional Handwriting to Students in the 21st Century

Expressions of Interest Sought

Saturday – Brisbane – Term 2/3 2012

9.00am – 12.30pm

Producing handwritten language is a complex skill. It requires the rapid and precise synchronization of multiple brain functions in the areas of cognition, language, visual-spatial, fine motor and kinesthetic development. Time for learning automated handwriting is reduced due to the expanded curriculum and the need for students to learn both functional handwriting and computer skills. This workshop explores the many difficulties that can be prevented by altering the instructional and intervention strategies to assist students to develop functional handwriting required in today's classrooms and in society.

The workshop will provide an overview with regard to:

- recent research about brain function and learning the complex skill of producing handwritten language
- changes in society that influence individual differences in student's handwriting development
- research of automated handwriting influencing written language development and spelling achievement
- assisting students to develop functional handwriting required for national testing
- specific intervention strategies to assist students throughout schooling
- motivating older students who have handwriting and spelling difficulties.

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 is aimed at classroom teachers 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. (Lunch also provided for those attending the afternoon workshop)

NB – this workshop is similar to a previously presented workshop “*Teaching Teaching Functional Handwriting for Written Communication*” with updated research being included/presented.

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.

Expressions of Interest for this event are now being sought. Please contact Zi Mei Events on (07) 3847 8375, info@zimei.com.au to register your interest.