# Rx for Discovery Writing – Fundamentals Workshop, 2027

## I. WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION:

The Rx for Discovery Writing - Fundamentals training is a two-day didactic and practicum workshop. The professional learning provides pre-school through third-grade educators with foundational understandings from brain research on how handwriting develops from a biological and cognitive development perspective and the instructional implications. Specific topics include the neurobiological basis for handwriting, handwriting and written expression development, and multi-modal development of writing skills. Educators will explore how handwriting impacts the brain and examine the link between handwriting, reading, and spelling. Mediated learning is the overarching instructional approach used to facilitate the norms, learning tasks, and discourse in the educational context. The training focuses on broadening educators' conceptions of multi-modal instructional practices that support handwriting and writing success for all learners. Key handwriting and written expression instruction include graphomotor skills, orthographic-motor integration, orthographic processing, cognition, language, and writing traits.

A. **Evidenced-based**: Based on a meta-analysis research from the Institute of Education Sciences (*Teaching Elementary Students to Be Effective Writers: Practice Guide Summary*; What Works Clearing House Practice Guide, 2018)

B. **Philosophy**: Multi-modal, structured approach based on "The Big Picture of Writing" and the "Simple View of Writing" (Berninger, 2002) within a mediated learning instructional framework (Feuerstein, 1996)

C. **Instruction**: Didactic and practicum learning experiences with hands-on, role-playing activities and lesson plan development.

D. **Assessment**: Participants will practice implementing a writing lesson plan with a small group and receive feedback on their demonstrations. Proficiency with designing and implementing multi-modal lesson plans that include the 6+1 writing traits will be assessed as well as the use of mediated learning instructional framework.

**II. WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES:**

A. **General**: Successful completion of this workshop will enable educators to use evidenced-based strategies to teach Grade R - 3rd grade students basic handwriting and written expression skills.

B. **Specific**: Upon completion of this workshop, participants will be able to:

1. Understand the neurological basis of writing development and what educators should know about teaching handwriting

2. Articulate why handwriting is important and how it is related to reading, spelling, written composition, and thinking

3. Articulate the Big Picture of Writing and the Simple View of Writing

4. Understand the 6+1 writing traits and how to develop students' writing traits

5. Use a multi-model approach to design and implement handwriting and written expression lesson plans

6. Implement Mediated Learning as the instructional methodology in handwriting and written expression instruction

7. Conduct informal assessments of students' handwriting and written expression skills

**III. WORKSHOP RESOURCES:**

A. Rx for Discovery Writing – Fundamentals *training manual* (provided by NILD SA)

B. Research and Journal Articles (provided before the course begins and in the training manual)

**IV. WORKSHOP FEES:**

INDIVIDUALS: R3 140.00 per person.

SCHOOLS: School's rate applies if there are four or more participants from the same school. Email for rate.

**Cancellation policy:** Should you cancel after the course closing date you will lose 25% of the fee and if cancelling within 1 week of the start of the course you will lose 50% of the course fee.

**Please note:** You need to attend the entire training to fulfil the pass requirements.

**V. Workshop Requirements:**

A. **Asynchronous Learning Activities**

1. Read five research/journal articles

2. Review online resources and watch four videos

3. Three Knowledge Assessments (to be done prior to the online training)

B**. Synchronous Learning Activities**

1. Engage in lectures and practicum activities

2. Observe instructor implementing a lesson plan

3. Create a handwriting/written expression lesson plan

4. Implement a lesson plan while role-playing with other participants

C**. Workshop Workload**

1. Asynchronous learning – time required is approximately 6 hours

2. Synchronous learning – two day workshop

***NILD Position Statement:*** The National Institute for Learning Development (NILD SA) was founded upon the biblical worldview that affirms everyone was created in the image of God and therefore has innate potential to learn and become effective in service to the world. As a professional educational training centre, we strive to maintain integrity at every level of service delivery. NILD SA has a policy of non-discrimination in relation to race, colour, gender, national or ethnic origin and religious belief.

***NILD's Philosophy:*** Believing that all students can learn and that the brain is open to modification at all stages of development, we provide direct and focused educational treatment for cognitive systems that are weak and vulnerable.

I trust that the information contained above will enable you to make an informed decision and that I will hear from you soon.

## Rx for Discovery Writing – Fundamentals

## Workshop Application 2027

**Personal details:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Full Name | |
| ID Number | |
| Cell number | |
| Closest Postnet | |
| Province | |
| Code | |

**Educational Background:**

| ***College / University*** | ***Major*** | ***Degree/Diploma held*** |
|---|---|---|
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**Training:** Please indicate which courses you have successfully completed.

| Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Rx for Writing STD | Rx for Reading | Rx for Maths | Search & Teach | Executive Functions | Linking Spelling & Reading |
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**Cost:**

☐ R3 140 per person. **(payable with the application)**

☐ **Please email the completed application form (pg. 4) and a copy of your degree to admin@nildsa.co.za**

☐ **Order and pay for the course at our online shop at www.nildsa.co.za**