Rx for Discovery Writing Standard Workshop 2027

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is a lecture and laboratory course designed to train teachers to provide written language intervention in a group setting. Rx for Discovery Writing is specifically intended for students in grades 4-12 whose basic written expression skills are below expected standards as determined by a local educational agency. RX for Discovery Writing will build and strengthen grammar and writing mechanics, semantics, syntax, and composition writing skills with an emphasis on the writing process.

This intervention can happen within three 40-minute, weekly small group sessions or two 60-minute, weekly small group sessions. Students who need to master basic grammar and writing skills will most benefit from this programme. Though handwriting and spelling skills are utilized and applied, these skills are not explicitly taught in this intervention.

Students will be challenged to apply their growing understanding of grammar to the creation of sentences, paragraphs, and compositions. Students will be implementing grammar, spelling and usage rules when editing their own written work as well as the written work of others. Language and higher-level thinking skills will be developed and supported in this interactive, small-group intervention that covers research-based writing content while mediation, Socratic questioning, and the strengthening of cognitive functions will serve as the core methodology.

In this dynamic intervention, students' written expression skills will be honed while their thinking and language skills will be strengthened, all within an atmosphere where writing skills are explicitly taught so anxiety and reluctance to write are reduced and thinking is maximized.

A. ***Research*** *Neuropsychology of Written Language Disorder; the power of mediation; cognitive functioning abilities related to written expression*.

B. ***Philosophy*** *Hands-on, brain-based, research-based grammar and writing* activities with emphasis on Socratic questioning, theories of group dynamics, and cognitive functions

C. ***Intervention*** *Balanced, mediated application of written language activities and techniques addressing 1) grammar skills, 2) sentence construction and combination skills, 3) and composition and editing strategies*

D. ***Assessment*** *Identify specific difficulties with written expression; gather pre/post data using Kaufman Test of Educational Achievement and informal observations*

II. **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

A. ***General***: Successful completion of this course will enable the participant to better understand student needs in written expression based on the subtypes of written language disorders and understand how to strengthen grammar, writing mechanics, semantics, syntax and composition skills while also learning how to utilize the group model for Rx for Discovery Writing to inspire reluctant and struggling writers to enjoy the writing process and the ability to communicate their own ideas in written form.

B. ***Specific***: Upon completion of this course, the participant will be able to:

1. Acquire an understanding of the characteristics of students who struggle with written language disorders
2. Articulate how the components of written language are related: handwriting, spelling, and composition of thought processes
3. Design a writing intervention plan and implement techniques that meet the specific needs of a group of struggling writers for grades 4-12
4. Communicate and implement the theories of mediated learning in a group setting

III. **COURSE RESOURCES**

A. RX for Discovery Writing *training manual* provided by NILD SA at the course

B. NILD Grammar Notebook purchased from NILD SA

C. *Easy Grammar Plus* Revised 2007 (Teacher Edition) (www.easygrammar.com)

D. Teaching Students with Dyslexia, Dysgraphia, OWL LD, and Dyscalculia by Virginia Berninger & Beverly J. Wolf (www.bookdepository.com)

IV. **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

A. ***Prerequisite***: a teaching or associated qualification

B. ***Pre-Course Preparation***:

1. Familiarize yourself with *Easy Grammar Plus* Revised 2007 (Teacher Edition)
2. Read Chapters 1,2, & 5 from Teaching Students with Dyslexia, Dysgraphia, OWL LD, and Dyscalculia by Virginia Berninger & Beverly J. Wolf
3. Read the articles that will be emailed to you on acceptance of the course.

- "How Quality of Writing Instruction Impacts High-risk Fourth Graders' Writing" by Louisa Moats, Barbara Foorman, and Patrick Taylor
- "Writing Next: Effective Strategies to Improve Writing of Adolescents in Middle and High Schools" by Steve Graham and Dolores Perin
- "Writing to Read: Evidence for How Writing Can Improve Reading" by S. Graham and D. Perin
- "Handwriting is Boeing 747 Technology" by Kristin Barbour, NILD Executive Director
- "Why Writing by Hand Could Make You Smarter" by William R. Klemm

C. **Required Materials:**

A. Easy Grammar Plus Revised 2007 (Teacher Edition) by Wanda C. Phillips

B. *Teaching Students with Dyslexia, Dysgraphia, OWL LD, and Dyscalculia* by Virginia Berninger & Beverly J. Wolf

C. NILD Grammar Notebook purchased from NILD SA

D. **Optional Materials:**

A. Getting A Grip by Kathleen R. Hopkins

B. *Craft Lessons Second Edition: Teaching Writing K-8* by Ralph Fletcher and JoAnn Portalupi

C. *Nonfiction Craft Lessons: Teaching Information Writing K-8* by Ralph Fletcher and JoAnn Portalupi

E. ***Course Activities***:

1. Acquire an understanding of the characteristics of students who struggle with written language disorders

2. Articulate how the components of written language are related: handwriting, spelling, and composition of thought processes

3. Demonstrate written expression intervention techniques with peers in a small group setting and implement strategies for motivating reluctant writers

4. Learn research-based intervention techniques to teach grammar, syntax, semantics, and the writing process to improve written expression skills in struggling writers

V. **COURSE WORKLOAD**

The time required for assignments and prerequisite assignments has been estimated at 7 hours.

VI. COURSE EVALUATION

Participants will practice the writing intervention techniques with a small group and receive feedback on their demonstrations. Proficiency with grammar, semantics, syntax, and teaching the writing process and
The ability to articulate their importance will be assessed.

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 in order to fulfil the pass requirements. Classes will start at 8.00 am and finish at 5 p.m.

NILD Position Statement: The National Institute for Learning Development (NILD) was founded upon the biblical worldview that affirms each individual 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 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.

Rx for Discovery Writing Standard Workshop Application 2027

Personal details:

Full Name	
ID Number	
Email Address	
Cell Number	
Closest Postnet	
Province	
Code	

Educational Background:

College / University	*Major*	*Degree/Diploma held*

Training: Please indicate which courses you have successfully completed.

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Rx for Writing F	Rx for Reading	Rx for Maths	Search & Teach	Executive Functions	Linking Spelling & Reading

Cost:

☐ R3 140.00 per person **(paid on application)**

☐ **Please email the completed application form (pg. 5) 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**