

Language Learning Strategies for Emerging Readers/Writers with Autism and/or Language Processing Difficulties

by Choo Kah Ying

INTRODUCTION

This workshop is targeted at teachers who are teaching special needs students experiencing varying levels of difficulties with processing language. The language difficulties of these students can range from not being able to process single letters to longer texts. In this workshop, the trainer will delve into some of the possible causes in order to provide some understanding of the challenges faced by these students. More importantly, this workshop will introduce participants to hands-on strategies for reading, writing and speaking.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this workshop are as follows:

- To identify the language processing challenges manifested by different types of students with special needs and the underlying causes;
- To explore practical hands-on strategies to circumvent language processing difficulties and help the students to acquire language; and
- To create visual texts to help students in their processing of speech, which is useful in helping them to cultivate conversational skills.

TARGET AUDIENCE

For teachers, parents and guardians who are teaching special needs students experiencing varying levels of difficulties with processing language.

COURSE OUTLINE

Section 1: Conceptual Presentation

For the first half of the presentation, the trainer will delve into the discussion of the topics:

- Identification of the language processing challenges of students with special needs and the underlying causes;
- Discussion and demonstration of hands-on strategies to circumvent language processing difficulties to help the students with the acquisition of language:
 - Moving students from single letters to words;
 - Moving students from words to sentences; and
 - Moving students from sentences to text.
- Demonstration and provision of sample visual texts that can help students in their processing of speech, which is useful in helping them to cultivate conversational skills.

Section 2: Small-Group Discussion and Q & A Session

Working together in small groups, participants will discuss how the strategies addressed in this workshop can be applied to the specific language processing difficulties of their students.

ABOUT THE WORKSHOP LEADER

Formerly an academic researcher, **Choo Kah Ying** is a writer/educator who is currently homeschooling her 10-year-old autistic son. She has published articles on raising and educating autistic children in *The Straits Times* and *Today*. She is also the author of a picture book, *All Because of the Hummingbird or the Horse*, and a parent training manual, *Raising Sebastien: Realising Your Autistic Child's Potential*. Her latest project is the running of a small, intensive individualised and customised learning programme for autistic children at the World of Autism – a neighbourhood autism centre in Tampines.

DATE & TIME

15 Mar 2008 (Sat), 10.00am to 1.00pm

VENUE

Agatha Room, Level 3, Toa Payoh Community Library

Organised by:

Supported by:



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COURSE ADMINISTRATION

Registration Fees

S\$85 per person includes light refreshment and course materials.

S\$70 for Early Birds who register by 22 Feb 2008.

Ways to register

1. Register online by visiting www.bookcouncil.sg/clap.htm
or
2. Complete the form below and fax it to (65) 6742 9466.

Cancellation & Substitution

Fees paid are non-refundable but transferable. Requests for substitution must be made on/before 7 March 2008. A cancellation charge of 25% of the full course fee is applicable for cancellations made after 7 March 2008

Payment

Payment is required before the workshop commences or within 30 days of receipt of invoice, whichever is earlier. Payment to be made in Singapore Dollars, by cash, cheque or bank draft, payable to "NBDCS" and mail the payment together with your form to us. Alternatively you may deliver your payment, with your name and contact details attached, immediately after you have faxed/mailed/submitted your online registration.

Mailing Address

National Book Development Council of Singapore
Geylang East Community Library
50 Geylang East Avenue 1
Singapore 389777

Enquiries

Email : clap@bookcouncil.sg
Tel : (65) 6848 8290

ABOUT THE ORGANISER

NBDCS is a non-profit umbrella body inaugurated in 1969 to promote storytelling, reading, writing and publishing, with a current objective to establish and develop Singapore as the Asian centre for publishing and the literary arts. NBDCS brings Singapore book industry and literary community together through industry events, courses, seminars, conferences and author lectures. NBDCS has been organising the prestigious Singapore Literature Prize since 1990 and also manages the Centre for Literary Arts and Publishing and Singapore Writers Centre.

REGISTRATION FORM - LANGUAGE LEARNING STRATEGIES FOR EMERGING READERS/ WRITERS WITH AUTISM AND/OR LANGUAGE PROCESSING DIFFICULTIES

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Dr _____

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