

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR LEARNING DEVELOPMENT

Workshop Syllabus

I. WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

Spelling abilities are closely connected to both reading and writing, and spelling challenges are often among the most persistent difficulties for students with dyslexia. Because spelling is one of the most sensitive indicators of a learning disability, it can be difficult for students to master. Many educational therapists become discouraged when they do not see meaningful improvement in their students' spelling scores during annual testing and seek ways to strengthen and improve their mediation. This workshop equips participants with practical tools—such as sound boxes, word sums, lexical matrices, and etymology activities—to help students make sense of spelling through structure and meaning. The knowledge and strategies presented complement Rx for Discovery Reading and Rx for Discovery Writing, enhancing an educational therapist's ability to integrate spelling instruction within a structured literacy framework and explore ways to strengthen students' spelling abilities through meaning using NILD techniques and materials.

II. WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

General: Successful completion of this workshop will enhance an educator's ability to develop students' understanding of spelling concepts, recognize common spelling misconceptions, evaluate writing samples effectively, and apply a multi-modal structured literacy approach to build stronger spelling skills.

Specific: Upon completion of this course, the educator will understand how:

1. Spelling is a cognitive activity.
2. Morphology aids in comprehension and spelling.
3. Etymology provides answers for unusual spellings.
4. Spelling provides a link between decoding and encoding.

Educators will demonstrate the ability to design and use the Spelling Investigation technique using a Structured Word Inquiry.

III. REQUIRED RESOURCES

Spelling: Linking Reading & Writing training manual (provided by NILD)

IV. WORKSHOP REQUIREMENTS

Pre-Workshop Preparation (approximately 2.5 hours)

WATCH 1 PowerPoint lecture and 1 additional video

READ 2 articles