



Professional Development Workshops

DII has created several workshops, and they are listed below; however, we are more than happy to customize our workshops for you and to create a presentation just for you. A consultation with the DII Director of Training may be scheduled to aid in the development of a workshop series or single professional development opportunity.

The duration of workshops listed below may be adjusted and topics may be combined to address your needs.

Dyslexia Simulation

Many people have an academic understanding of some of the difficulties that are faced by people with dyslexia; however, they may not fully grasp the feelings of anxiety, frustration, and failure that those with dyslexia struggle with on a daily basis. Participants attending this workshop will acquire an awareness of the challenges faced by those with dyslexia every day in their learning environment, and they will walk away with a greater degree of empathy for people with dyslexia. Participants will also gain insight into how to more effectively work with people who have a diagnosis of dyslexia. This workshop is applicable to teachers at all levels.

Dyslexia Overview

Teachers gain a thorough understanding of dyslexia and learn classic indicators to look for in students. The differences between learning *styles* and learning disabilities are examined, and an overview of multisensory classroom strategies is explored. This presentation is highly recommended as an all-school or township-wide professional development opportunity. This presentation can be incorporated with any other workshop and is applicable to teachers at all levels.

Overview of Learning Differences

In today's inclusion classrooms there are many students with learning differences. Educators who attend this workshop will gain an understanding of the following types of learning differences: dyslexia, dysgraphia, dyscalculia, AD/HD, and non-verbal learning differences. They also will learn effective strategies to work with their students who possess these particular learning differences. This workshop is applicable to teachers at all levels.

Success Attributes

The Frostig Center is a school for students with learning differences. They noticed that some of their graduates led very successful lives while others struggled more in life, and some even ended up being in trouble with the law. Consequently, they performed a longitudinal study to see what attributes their successful students possessed. In this workshop, participants will learn about the success attributes and also will learn how to cultivate these attributes in their students. This workshop is applicable to teachers at all levels.

Multisensory Instructional Techniques

As a continuation of the *Dyslexia Overview* workshop, participants will explore both general and content area specific multisensory language remediation strategies for a variety of grade levels. Educators develop a multisensory "frame of mind" from which all instruction, regardless of curriculum used, may be modified to meet the needs of language learning disabled students. While this workshop is most beneficial for K-6 teachers, it is easily adaptable to accommodate secondary teachers.

Building Fluency and Comprehension Skills

Participants will learn instruction strategies to promote reading fluency and comprehension skills. Emphasis is placed on multisensory teaching techniques. Teachers of upper elementary, middle and high school students will leave with an understanding of how to meet the needs of their students who are decoding but still struggling with fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.

Multisensory Phonemic Awareness Instructional Strategies

Pre-K through second grade teachers will learn effective strategies to use with their students who are at-risk for reading difficulties. Teachers will gain an understanding of the importance of phonemic awareness as a pre-cursor to reading instruction. They also will learn to assess their students and to put into practice phonemic awareness activities in their classrooms. Multi-sensory teaching strategies are highlighted. Activities for classroom instruction are reviewed, created, and practiced at each level of phonemic awareness instruction.

Multisensory Writing Instruction

Through a modeling approach, teachers who have struggling writers learn strategies to improve their students' understanding of grammar, vocabulary, and written expression. Teachers learn how to help their students compose paragraphs and essays. This workshop is beneficial for teachers who work with students who have already developed the foundational skill of writing basic sentences.

Study and Organizational Skills

Language learning disabled students require direct instruction in study strategies. Participants in this workshop will learn specific study skills that are applicable to a wide variety of students and that create a foundation for effective test preparation, homework completion, and time management skills. Parents and older students will also benefit from attending this workshop.

Multisensory Math

Students struggling to learn math concepts in today's classrooms benefit from concrete/pictorial instruction prior to abstract instruction. This workshop will give teachers an understanding of multisensory strategies and help them learn how to implement these strategies into their classrooms. The connection between how the brain processes mathematics and the effectiveness of multisensory teaching strategies is explored and tools for teaching the language of math and computation provided.