

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR LEARNING DEVELOPMENT
INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS FOR STUDENTS WITH LEARNING NEEDS
2009 Level I Course Syllabus

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is a lecture and laboratory course designed to train teachers to give educational therapy to students with learning difficulties. Three broad topics are addressed in this introductory course:

- A. ***Philosophy*** - definition of learning difficulties, program distinctives, and methods of intervention in accordance with the model developed by the National Institute for Learning Development (NILD)
- B. ***Assessment*** - pupil evaluation by means of informal teacher assessment and formal psychological and educational assessment
- C. ***Intervention*** - individualized implementation of techniques for stimulation of processing and cognitive weaknesses

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

- A. ***General:*** Successful completion of this course will equip the educational therapist/intern to identify and assess student needs and utilize NILD techniques to enable the student with learning difficulties to succeed in the classroom.
- B. ***Specific:*** Upon completion of this course, the educational therapist/intern will be able to:
 - 1. Demonstrate an understanding of the characteristics of learning difficulties
 - 2. Demonstrate an understanding of how learning disabilities impact classroom performance and behavior
 - 3. Explain the distinctives of the NILD program
 - 4. Understand an interpretation of a battery of tests, both educational and psychological
 - 5. Demonstrate a beginning understanding of the *Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children, Fourth Edition (WISC-IV)*
 - 6. Design and implement an educational therapy program according to the deficits determined by formal assessment
 - 7. Demonstrate a working knowledge of twelve introductory NILD techniques
 - 8. Understand annual testing procedures
 - 9. Understand how reading, math and spelling can be used as tools to stimulate deficient cognitive functioning
 - 10. Set up a beginning program within a school or independent setting
 - 11. Demonstrate an awareness of NILD philosophy

III. COURSE RESOURCES

A. *To be obtained by participants:*

1. *Speech to Print*, Louisa Cook Moats, Ed.D. Paul H. Brookes Publishing Company
2. *Learning Disabilities and Related Mild Disabilities: Characteristics, Teaching Strategies and New Directions*, Janet Lerner with Beverly Johns, Cengage Learning
3. *Teaching With the Brain in Mind*, Eric Jensen, ASCD
4. *Blue Book Packet* (the *Blue Book*, *KEYWO*, *Phonic Spelling Workbook*, *Sounds of Speech*, Teacher's Word List and Student Reference Sheets)

See Financial Information page for details on ordering *Speech to Print*, *Learning Disabilities*, the *Blue Book Packet* and *Teaching with the Brain in Mind*.

B. *Provided by NILD at the course site:*

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| 1. <i>NILD Level I Manual</i> (1999 edition) | 6. Square puzzles with tiles |
| 2. Forms | 7. Buzzer |
| 3. Pegboard and pegs | 8. Laminated Rhythmic Writing and Morse Code Cards |
| 4. Pythagoras puzzles with pieces | 9. Chalk holder & chalk |
| 5. Body Image puzzles | |

C. *Purchased by participant prior to course:*

Each participant will need to bring the following materials and supplies to the course. Please note that prices do not include shipping costs. [Established NILD programs may bring used materials.] Items are sometimes backordered. Allow adequate time for delivery prior to course. Every effort has been made to convey current information, but prices and stock numbers are subject to change without notice.

<i>Materials</i>	<i>Unit Price</i>	<i>Supplier</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>Fax</i>
<i>Getting the Main Idea</i> (Book F) ISBN #002687976X	\$13.77	SRA – ask for Specific Skills Series www.sraonline.com	888-772-4543 609-426-5793	972-228-1982 – in U.S. 609-426-7917 – Int'l.
Let's Read (Book 4) 5303-W8	\$14.00	Educators Pub. www.epsbooks.com	800-225-5750 617-547-6706	888-440-2665 – in U.S. 617-547-0412 – Int'l.
How to Spell (Book 3) 1852-W8	\$11.20			
How to Teach Spelling 1847-W8	\$31.30			
Listen My Children (3 rd Edition) 10434	\$49.00	PRO-ED www.proedinc.com	800-897-3202 512-451-3246	800-397-7633
Mini Avalanche Foam Letters LR-2344	\$19.95	Lauri www.lauritoys.com	800-451-0520	800-682-3555

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- A. **Prerequisite:** Bachelor's degree, preferably in education or related field
- B. **Pre-Course Preparation:** Prior to attending the course: 1) observe a live or recorded NILD Educational Therapy® session, 2) **begin memorizing *The Blue Book***, 3) read texts as assigned, and 4) submit written assignments (see **Course Information** for details)
- C. **Course Activities:** Attendance at all sessions is required along with full participation in all activities and assignments.
 - 1. Read the training manual in its entirety.
 - 2. Read assigned portions of the *Learning Disabilities* text.
 - 3. Write a one-page critique on an article in Theory section of manual.
 - 4. **Memorize *The Blue Book* and complete related assignments.**
 - 5. Work with a partner for the purpose of demonstration and implementation of techniques.
 - 6. Complete the testing assignment.
 - 7. Complete the final assignment.
- D. **Course Assignments:** The pre-course readings are to be completed and the *Speech to Print* assignment and therapy observation paper submitted to the course instructor 2 weeks prior to the course. The *Teaching With the Brain in Mind* reflection paper should be submitted at the first class. All other assignments are to be completed by the end of the course.

V. COURSE WORKLOAD

The time required for the various assignments has been estimated as follows:

Reading <i>Speech to Print</i>	3 hours
Reading <i>Learning Disabilities</i>	6 hours
Reading <i>Teaching with the Brain in Mind</i>	4 hours
Reading Level I Manual	6 hours
Course Assignments	30 hours
Final Assignment	5 hours

VI. COURSE EVALUATION

Pre-course assignments	10%
Student Profile	5%
Reaction paper to one article	5%
Testing assignment	15%
Technique demonstration	30%
Class participation	15%
Final assignment	20%

VII. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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