

Evaluations from Participants of Learning Difficulties 4 day Courses 2009

This has been the best PD I have attended. I didn't mind giving up my holidays. The information presented will be so helpful for me. Met all expectations and more! It has also made me reflect upon my current teaching. Changes need to be made. The video shown should be shown to all teachers and parents. I still cannot believe how both Michelle and Daryl have become such brilliant people in our society, with such valuable information. Congratulations and it is a shame more teachers didn't attend this course. They missed out!

First PD I've been to for a while where I learnt something new. Very interesting and not at all boring. Great pace of delivery of topics. **Great to have such well organised notes to look back on and resources to take away.** Great incorporation of videos etc...Appreciate your warmth and humor. Thanks for travelling to Gippsland to share your experiences. Catering and venue excellent.

These 4 days have been the most fulfilling professional development I have undertaken in the past 19 years of teaching! Powerful messages about teaching and learning were delivered in such an honest and genuine way that one cannot fail to be moved 'to act' to improve what is currently happening in schools. Thank you so much Michelle and Daryl. You are such an inspiration and your energy, enthusiasm and experience has been so appreciated. I hope these 4 days are the beginning of something new and exciting for my school and for my teaching too! God Bless you both for the work you are doing!!

Thank you so much!!! This has been a most valuable experience. I have a much greater understanding of the way the children with learning difficulties operate and how to help them...Now, to put it into practice! The knowledge that you both have is astounding and I thank you for sharing it with us and allowing me to ask a million questions. **I will be recommending this PD to others.**

What a fantastic and dynamic course! Daryl and Michelle, you allowed us to relate to you on a very personal level by sharing your stories, and by allowing us to share ours. Wonderful resources and materials, and a range of very appropriate tools to enable teachers and support personnel of various skills and experience levels to try. **Highly professional, engaging and USEABLE functional content.** Congratulations on how you have both overcome such learning difficulties to become leaders in your respective fields.

I have found this course to be so informative and exciting. I wish I had found your course many years ago before I retired! During the last four days there have been so many ideas shared which are going to help me with the young people I tutor. At the moment it is all very overwhelming (information overload) but I am looking forward to revisiting everything we have covered this weekend in the coming weeks. Thank you.

WOW! What a fantastic way to spend the last four days of my holidays. I cannot believe how much I have learnt. This course has provided me confidence, especially with the children who challenge my thinking, learning and teaching. Thank you for your time, energy and commitment to educating teachers.

Most insightful PD I've ever attended that deals directly with recognising the “traits”, identifying and then practical teaching responses to help address those needs. It redirects your thinking regarding “difficult behaviours” some children demonstrate in the classroom, to question the underlying issues. Although it was a small group it was an excellent size for maximum opportunity to question/revise etc. Thank you for providing the opportunity-both as a teacher and parent!

Brilliant 4 day course – A lot of information to take in but very helpful with ready made notes and booklets to refer to. Helpful and appropriate strategies that can be implemented. Michelle – Very easy to listen to, passionate, knowledgeable. Daryl – Great expert in the field, different perspective other than having another teacher. Every classroom teacher not just special ed. Teacher should do the course. Venue was great as was the opportunity to network with a wide variety of teachers from other schools.

I found the course very informative and it was an extremely practical refresher (if that is the correct word) for the post grad study I completed in 2007. It also, however, made me realise what I don't know, which has inspired me to continue on with whatever high quality PD I can access. A one day PD on assessment and interpretation of assessment (hands-on) would be a fantastic follow up to this course, so please consider it. Thank You!

Great course, covered lots of areas I needed to know about. Clear vocalisation and presentations, knowledgeable and patient presenters. Loved hearing Jo and seeing the I.T software available. Food, fruit each day would be great. Less fried food. Perhaps have morning tea at 10.30am and lunch at the same time i.e. 1pm. Michelle, I would love to get the info about setting up your own tutoring business e.g. forms etc, that you spoke to me about. Any chance of getting them in the near future as I will be starting shortly with one of Lyn P's students. Thank you for everything and being so generous with your experiences and knowledge.

This course was fantastic! I learnt so much in just a few short days, and I was so moved by the videos and anecdotes that both Michelle and Daryl told. This course should be a compulsory part of every pre-service course. I can't wait to start using my new knowledge. Thank you for such an interesting and worthwhile and well-taught time.

Excellent. Very informative with lots of new information and very practical. Very inspiring and passionate. I am looking forward to sharing some of this knowledge with staff and using it with children. Presentation excellent – notes great, I appreciate handouts and readings. I also appreciate the way Michelle and Darryl are willing to give us so much of their personal experience to make the course meaningful. Very Brave!

Course presented in a very sensitive way – very inclusive. Excellent presenters! I reflected on students that I have taught in the past and thought I wish I had some of this information, computer applications etc. Personally, I reflected on all the heart-ache children with dyslexia have experienced and wondered how much some schools/teaching staff are not familiar with recent articles etc. I am looking forward to trying the material we have been introduced to. The 4 days was intense and I would have preferred some options with this. Thank you.

Thank you very much Daryl and Michelle. I have thoroughly enjoyed listening to every moment of my 4 days. I have learned lots about testing and different types of tests available. Michelle, you are the best presenter I have ever heard. You are so vibrant and your knowledge is so extensive. As much as we think we know, we find out there is much more to learn. Thanks for teaching me about syllables. All my life I thought kit/ten was like this. Whoa! Is me or my teachers in another time. Please email any snippets. Keep up the fantastic work.

I have found this course amazing. I feel that it was specifically designed for me in the role that I am working in. All sections of the course were delivered with passion and that has been much appreciated. Thank you. I have also enjoyed the interaction with the other participants as often in the country you don't have the opportunity to talk with people working in the same area. Once again many thanks.

Michelle, I found the course excellent. Plenty of new material and ideas, but also opportunity to reflect on current practice. Would like to take Thrass a little further and I am interested in finding out about the work you are doing at Casey Grammar. I am really keen to trial much of the software – can't wait to use new software. Daryl, my understanding of assessments has greatly improved and I think I feel more confident to tackle further assessments myself and to refer on as necessary. Look forward to taking it all back to my staff and the classroom.

I now feel excited to go back and “put into place” some of the strategies I have learnt over the past four days. I feel a little overwhelmed as to all the things I should know, but don't. However, I feel now that I can read, read, read and read to help make sense of it. I desperately want to get back to my students as I know I will be a better teacher. I think I would really benefit from doing this course next year with a bit more experience under my belt. I have never written so much on an evaluation sheet. I think this says so much about how I have valued this course. Thank You!!

I have found this course to be enormously enjoyable. I have gone home each day with a head spinning and full of new information, as I am just beginning my journey into this area. I do feel a bit disappointed that some areas (autism/ aspergers/add/adhd) weren't covered in a bit more detail, as a number of my children have been diagnosed with these conditions, and I want to help them as much as I can. I understand that there's so much to squash into four days! Thank you both for your enthusiasm, fantastic notes and bravery to reach your potential despite dyslexia challenging you. Michelle, I loved hearing about your family.

I have learnt so much! You guys both have an awesome amount of knowledge and personal experience to share. I feel fairly humbled by my participation and unsure where to proceed from here. Perhaps after reading all the course notes, the pathway will become clear. I think perhaps Thrass training should be next. Thank you both very much. P.S, Michelle, I have never been in a course with such a dynamic presenter as you.

Thank you very much Michelle for your kindness and understanding. This is a marvellous, informative, inspiring, practical and at times, mind-boggling course! The materials and the videos were superb. Jo's visit was fabulous and inspiring. I would love to do a 2 day course with her just playing with the technology. Many thanks.

Thanks Michelle for a very informative and professional development course. Sharing your personal experiences, as difficult as they are for you to share, they made the course more personal. I walk away with more understanding and practical skills to help not only LD children but all children. Thanks again.