

ABOUT THE PRESENTATION:

Teaching handwriting is an important skill for reading, writing and spelling. Yet, statistically, teachers spend little time on handwriting instruction and explicit practice. This session will demonstrate the importance of understanding graphemes, why letter formation is critically important and how to teach children accurately for automaticity using key research and strategies for handwriting.

Objectives:

1. What is a grapheme?
2. Why grapheme instruction is important and how to implement.
3. Provide a systematic method using Kilpatrick (2016) Equipped for Reading Success and importance of writing in structured literacy instruction.
4. Approaching emergent learners: letter names or sounds, letter confusion explained (Dehaene, 2011) B and D reversals.
5. Importance of practice: demonstration of letter formation and take away resources for systematic, explicit handwriting instruction.
6. Summarize the 8 key instructional areas where handwriting impacts and the Reader/Writer Effect.

GRASPING GRAPHEMES: THE ABC'S OF WHY HANDWRITING IS CRITICAL



Julie Hicks, M.Ed.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER:

Julie is a K-12 certified special education teacher, structured literacy specialist, advocate and public speaker who has dedicated her life to public service to meet the needs of students with disabilities, primarily children with reading differences. Julie has served on the National Advisory Panel for the ETS Praxis exam for reading teachers, the Model Curriculum team for the Ohio Department of Education and the ODE Standards Revision Committee for ELA. She has served literacy associations for more than 10 years as a local and state leader and presently serves on the Board of Directors for the International Dyslexia Association for Northern Ohio. She has two published articles in *Literacy Today*. Employed by the Educational Service Center of Lake Erie West, Julie also owns a private practice for dyslexia/reading intervention in Perrysburg, Ohio.

Julie is trained as Regional Facilitator for LETRS and is Level One Orton Gillingham certified. She has a passion to reach children and teach educators evidence based, effective literacy practices and the science of reading. With emphasis on grapheme/phoneme mastery and phonemic awareness, Julie has helped children to be empowered as readers! She believes in the importance of reaching ALL students to be successful and to develop a love for reading, collaboration, encourage family engagement while providing care and support.