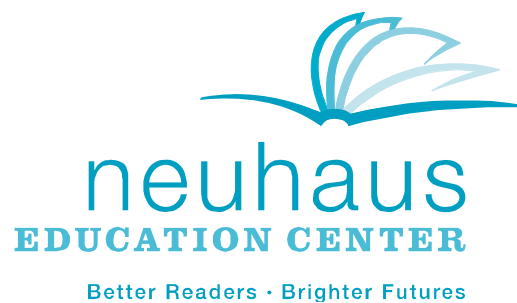


Orientation for *Basic Language Skills*

Elisa Barnes, M.Ed., CALT-QI
Instructional Manager
Coordinator, *Basic Language Skills* Curriculum
ebarnes@neuhaus.org

Rai Thompson, M.Ed. CALT-QI
Assistant Director of Professional Development
Coordinator, Preparation Programs



Basic Language Skills

Explicit, systematic, intensive literacy instruction for students with dyslexia or related language learning differences

Basic Language Skills:

- Is a literacy instructional framework that is:
 - Systematic
 - Sequential
 - Intensive
 - Comprehensive
- Is for use by teachers and specialists working with students identified with special needs in learning to read and spell
- Is designed to be taught:
 - With the teacher's full attention to the students with whom he or she is working.
 - Preferably, to a group of only three to five students who are similar in age and reading ability. The maximum group size is eight.
 - With intensity and duration that ensures students' progress and achievement.
 - By a knowledgeable and skilled specialist.
 - With a monitored and modulated pace that is adjusted to meet student needs.
- Is distributed over three manuals. Each manual includes:
 - A concept manual with a scope and sequence that details a suggested order of presentation for reading and spelling, concept introductions, and practices
 - A notebook that includes suggested procedures, reproducible practice pages, and information for developing comprehension and writing skills
 - An outline for a lesson plan that provides instruction in reading, writing, and spelling as appropriate
- Meets the standards set by the:
 - Texas Education Agency
 - International Multisensory Structured Language Education Council
 - International Dyslexia Association

Basic Language Skills – Introductory Class

Initial professional development for educators who provide explicit, systematic intensive literacy instruction

Basic Language Skills–Introductory Class is the first part of the sequence of professional development connected to *Basic Language Skills*. Because this class is regarded as a first step, it is often referred to simply as “Basic”.

“Basic” meets:

- Spring and summer semesters, 10 consecutive days
- Fall and winter semesters, one day per week for ten weeks
- Each class day, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., and includes lectures, video demonstrations, modeling of strategies, and opportunities to practice the strategies within small groups.

“Basic” participants learn:

- the nature of literacy acquisition
- the facets of domains of language
- the characteristics of dyslexia
- diagnostic teaching practices
- the structure and patterns of English for reading and spelling
- strategies for developing oral language and comprehension

Throughout “Basic” participants:

- participate in interactive lectures
- complete reading assignments
- demonstrate understanding in discussions, written exercises, and exams
- observe and practice multisensory lesson routines that promote accurate decoding, fluency, and text understanding

“Basic”:

- Focuses on the introduction of initial reading, writing, and spelling concepts
- Involves 71 hours of professional development including 60 hours distributed over 10 consecutive days or weeks and two follow-up classes, *Book 1A* and *Book 1B*
- Includes 2 reviews of demonstration lessons and consultation with a professional development staff member

Basic Language Skills concepts taught include:

- Word Recognition Skills
 - Phonemic Awareness
 - Sound/Symbol Correspondences
 - Syllable Types
 - Syllable Division
 - High Frequency Words
 - Contractions and Possessives
 - Morphemes – suffixes
 - Prosody
- Handwriting
 - Letter Strokes
 - Letter Connections
- Spelling Skills
 - Phonemic Awareness
 - Recurring Spelling Patterns
 - Spelling Rules
 - Irregular Word Learning
- *Basic Language Skills – Introductory Class* materials include:
 - *Multisensory Teaching of Basic Language Skills* (Birsh, 2011)
 - *Multisensory Teaching of Basic Language Skills Activity Book* (Carreker & Birsh, 2011)
 - *Basic Language Skills, Book 1*
 - *Scientific Spelling*
 - *The Colors and Shapes of Language*, with CD
 - *Initial Reading Deck*, with deck dividers and additional cards
 - Chart Sets
 - Decodable readers *Tracks* and *Wishes* (Multisensory Teaching Approach, MTA)
- Composition
 - Nouns, Verbs, Noun Markers
 - Sentence Structure
 - Descriptive Paragraph
 - Narrative Paragraph
 - Summary Writing
- Oral Language Skills
 - Naming
 - Describing
 - Story Retelling
 - Vocabulary
- Comprehension Skills
 - Text Structure
 - Activating World Knowledge
 - Inner Dialogue
 - Visualizing
 - Summarizing

Prerequisites

Prior to beginning “Basic”, participants must:

- Attend *Reading Readiness*, a class designed for teachers who work with students who still need the preliminary reading skills of phonemic awareness, letter recognition, and oral language.
- Register and pay a minimum of the nonrefundable \$50 deposit
 - Submit a registration form via mail or fax, or
 - Register online at www.neuhaus.org
- Sign a statement indicating that you understand the requirements of “Basic”
- At least **two weeks** prior to beginning “Basic”:
 - Submit a copy of your college transcript with degree posted or a copy of your diploma
 - Pay the remaining balance for the cost of “Basic”

Class Requirements

During “Basic”, participants must:

- Attend all **10** scheduled classes
 - 10 consecutive week days, or
 - One day a week for 10 weeks
- Class time is 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
 - Plan to arrive by 8:15 a.m.
 - Lunch is from 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- Participate in daily activities
 - Attend to lectures
 - Engage in supervised, small group practice activities
- Successfully teach a lesson to your practicum group
- Complete homework assignments
 - Reading assignments
 - Preparation for practicum activities
 - Practice activities from an activity manual
- Submit cursive handwriting samples
- Demonstrate proficiency producing the 44 speech sounds of English
- Successfully complete a final exam (open-book)

University of St. Thomas Credit (Optional)

You are able to receive 3 hours of graduate credit through the University of St. Thomas if you take “Basic” in the summer. The fee is \$350.

Additional Requirements:

- A formal three- to five-page discussion paper on “The Student with a Language Learning Difference”
- A report on the book, *Overcoming Dyslexia*, by Sally Shaywitz. The book report should follow a four-part format:
 - Book summary
 - Specific information that the reader found informative from the book
 - Reader’s opinion of the book
 - The audiences to whom the reader would recommend the book
- A second final exam on theory

Is this the right class for you?

- Will you be able to devote the time needed for the two weeks of the *Basic Language Skills – Introductory Class*?
 - Attend class daily?
 - Complete daily homework assignments?
 - Prepare for practicum activities?
 - Participate in practicum activities?
 - Organize the material you receive in class?
- Will you have the necessary time to devote to teaching students who need *Basic Language Skills*?
 - Devote adequate time to provide the intensity and duration that ensures students’ progress and achievement? Typically, therapists teach four days a week for 50-60 minutes per session.
 - Understand that the length of instruction will be based on your students’ needs and that it will take a student a minimum of two years to complete the program?

Yes?

If you have decided that *Basic Language Skills* is right for you and your students:

- Fill out and sign agreement letter at the end of this handout and send it to Neuhaus.
 - Mail: Neuhaus Education Center
Attn: Registrar
4433 Bissonnet
Bellaire, TX 77401-3233
 - Fax: 713.664.4744
 - Email: dlewis@neuhaus.org and include the text of the agreement letter in the body of your email.
- Register for your chosen class dates.

Don't Stop Learning! Continue Professional Development

- Enroll in Neuhaus classes so that you can offer more in-depth help to your students, or
- Enroll in a Neuhaus Level 1 or Level 2 Preparation Program to comply with the Texas Dyslexia Law or apply for licensure

Suggested Sequence for Professional Development after "Basic"

- Year One
 - *Reading Readiness*
 - *Basic Language Skills – Introductory Class*
 - *Basic Language Skills – Book 1A*
 - *Basic Language Skills – Book 1B*
 - *Multisensory Grammar*
 - *Developing Metacognitive Skills*
- Year Two
 - *Basic Language Skills – Advanced*
 - *Basic Language Skills – Book 2*
 - *Written Composition Fundamentals*
 - *Spelling Development Webinar (CEUs on Demand)*
 - *Developing Vocabulary for Reading Success - Online*
 - *Basic Language Skills – Book 3*
- Outside and/or Neuhaus Education Center Related Classes
 - 30+ hours

Neuhaus Preparation Programs:

- Provide professional preparation for our participants in the use of multisensory structured language education.
- Have two levels encompassing three tracks. Both levels are accredited by the International Multisensory Structured Language Education Council.

Preparation Program Prerequisites

- Preparation Program, Level 1
 - Bachelor’s degree
- Preparation Program, Level 2-A
 - Bachelor’s degree
- Preparation Program, Level 2-B
 - Post-graduate degree
- All levels require successful completion of “Basic”

Neuhaus Preparation Program, Level 1

Dyslexia Practitioner

Successful completion of the 60-hour *Basic Language Skills - Introductory Class* is the prerequisite for individuals with a bachelor’s degree who wish to enter Neuhaus Education Center’s Preparation Program, Level 1, Dyslexia Practitioner.

Upon completion of Preparation Program, Level 1, an individual is eligible to sit for the Alliance Registration Exam at the teacher level. Passage of this exam qualifies the individual for membership in the Academic Language Therapy Association (ALTA) at the Associate Teaching Level, and the individual is eligible to apply to the State of Texas for licensure as a Dyslexia Practitioner.

Dyslexia Practitioners must work under supervision.

Requirements for Preparation Program, Level 1:

<i>Professional Preparation Requirements</i>	85 Hr
<i>Reading Readiness</i>	5.5 Hr
<i>Basic Language Skills – Introductory Class</i>	60 Hr
<i>Basic Language Skills - Book 1A</i> (cost included with <i>Basic Language Skills – Introductory Class</i>)	5.5 Hr
<i>Basic Language Skills - Book 1B</i> (cost included with <i>Basic Language Skills – Introductory Class</i>)	5.5 Hr
<i>Multisensory Grammar</i>	3.5 Hr

Current Neuhaus prices are available on the Neuhaus Education Center website or on printed class schedules

Outside and/or Neuhaus Related Classes (costs will vary) 5 Hr

Curriculum Teaching Requirements..... 85 Hr

Teaching experience is accumulated in two situations. A teaching situation is defined as teaching an individual with a language learning difference and/or small group of individuals with such a difference. Your teaching situations must be approved by the coordinator of the Preparation Program, Level 1. Teaching through *Basic Language Skills Book 1* is required.

Demonstration Requirements Minimum of 5 Lessons

Demonstrations may be live and/or videoed and are distributed at or near:

- *Book 1*: Concept 20
- *Book 1*: Concept 35
- *Book 1*: Concept 45
- *Book 1*: Concept 55
- *Book 1*: Concept 65.

Demonstration lessons are planned so that each of the following is presented at least once: auditory/visual discovery, the dictation procedure, extended reading with a reader, grammar, and naming and/or describing.

Documentation Requirements

- New Student/Class Report is submitted to describe each teaching situation.
- Progress Reports are submitted for each teaching situation after each Mastery Check is administered. Progress reports that reflect a minimum of 85 teaching hours are required.

Professional Development Requirements 2 Book Reports

The practitioner-in-training reads and summarizes two books listed as teacher references in *Multisensory Teaching of Basic Language Skills* (Birsh, 2011).

Preparation Program, Level 1 Fee \$200

This fee may be paid in an installment plan that includes an additional \$50 carrying charge. An initial \$50 payment is submitted with the first New Student/Class Report. Additional Payments are submitted with Progress Reports.

A practitioner-in-training has two years after first enrollment in the program to complete all requirements.

Neuhaus Preparation Program, Level 2

The two tracks within Level 2 provide in-depth preparation for therapists working with individuals with dyslexia and other related disorders.

Level 2-A, Reading Therapist

Bachelor's Degree Required

Successful completion of the 60-hour *Basic Language Skills - Introductory Class* is the prerequisite for individuals with a bachelor's degree who wish to enter Neuhaus Education Center's Preparation Program, Level 2-A, Reading Therapist.

Upon completion of Preparation Program, Level 2-A, Reading Therapist, an individual is eligible to sit for the Alliance Registration Exam at the therapy level.

Passage of this exam qualifies the individual as a Certified Academic Language Therapist (CALT).

ALTA members at the CALT level who completed Preparation Program Level 2-A may apply for licensure in the State of Texas as Dyslexia Practitioners.

Dyslexia Practitioners must work under supervision.

Level 2-B, Dyslexia Therapist

Advanced Degree Required

Successful completion of the 60-hour *Basic Language Skills - Introductory Class* is the prerequisite for individuals with a post-graduate degree who wish to enter Neuhaus Education Center's Preparation Program, Level 2-B, Dyslexia Therapist.

Upon completion of Preparation Program, Level 2-B, Dyslexia Therapist, an individual is eligible to sit for the Alliance Registration Exam at the therapy level.

Passage of this exam qualifies the individual as a Certified Academic Language Therapist (CALT), and the individual is eligible to apply to the State of Texas for licensure as a Dyslexia Therapist.

Neuhaus Education Center will refer students to only those individuals pursuing or those who have completed the Preparation Program, Level 2B - Dyslexia Therapist.

Requirements for the Preparation Programs, Level 2-A and -B

Professional Preparation Requirements	200 Hr
<i>Reading Readiness</i>	5.5 Hr
<i>Basic Language Skills – Introductory Class</i>	60 Hr
<i>Basic Language Skills - Book 1A</i> (cost included with <i>Basic Language Skills – Introductory Class</i>)	5.5 Hr
<i>Basic Language Skills - Book 1B</i> (cost included with <i>Basic Language Skills – Introductory Class</i>)	5.5 Hr
<i>Multisensory Grammar</i>	3.5 Hr
<i>Developing Metacognitive Skills</i>	10 Hr
<i>Basic Language Skills - Advanced</i>	60 Hr
<i>Basic Language Skills - Book 2</i> (cost included with <i>Basic Language Skills - Advanced</i>).....	5.5 Hr
<i>Written Composition Fundamentals</i>	3.5 Hr
<i>Developing Vocabulary for Reading Success – Online</i>	3.5 Hr
<i>Spelling Development Webinar (CEUs on Demand)</i>	2 Hr
<i>Basic Language Skills - Book 3</i>	6 Hr

Current Neuhaus prices are available on the Neuhaus Education Center website or on printed class schedules

Outside and/or Neuhaus Related Classes (costs will vary)..... 30 Hr

Curriculum Teaching Requirements..... **700 Hr**

Teaching experience is accumulated in three situations. A teaching situation is defined as teaching an individual with a language learning difference and/or small group of individuals with such a difference. Your teaching situations must be approved by the coordinator of the Preparation Program, Level 2. Teaching experience includes beginning *Basic Language Skills* at the initial level (*Book 1*) and progressing through the advanced level (*Book 3*).

Demonstration Requirements **Minimum of 10 Lessons**

Demonstrations may be live and/or videoed and are distributed at or near:

- *Book 1*: 5 demonstrations:
 - Concept 20
 - Concept 35
 - Concept 45
 - Concept 55
 - Concept 65
- *Book 2*: 4 demonstrations:
 - Concept 80
 - Concept 90
 - Concept 100
 - Concept 110.
- *Book 3*: 1 demonstration

Documentation Requirements

- New Student/Class Report is submitted to describe each teaching situation.
- Progress Reports are submitted for each teaching situation after each Mastery Check is administered. Progress reports that reflect a minimum of 700 teaching hours spanning the curriculum are required.
- 1 Case Study

Professional Development Requirements 4 Book Reports

The therapist-in-training reads and summarizes four books listed as teacher references in *Multisensory Teaching of Basic Language Skills* (Birsh, 2011).

Preparation Program, Level 2 Fee \$400

This fee may be paid in an installment plan that includes an additional \$50 carrying charge. An initial \$50 payment is submitted with the first New Student/Class Report. Additional Payments are submitted with Progress Reports.

The requirements for Level 2, either A or B, must be completed within five years of enrollment in the Preparation Program.

Questions?

For more information about *Basic Language Skills*, contact Elisa Barnes at ebarnes@neuhaus.org or 713.664.7676.

For more information about the Preparation Programs, contact Rai Thompson at rthompson@neuhaus.org or 713.664.7676.

Neuhaus Education Center Comprehensive Preparation Programs

A Summary of Preparation Programs for Teachers of Students with Reading Disabilities or Dyslexia

Neuhaus Education Center's Level 1 and Level 2 Preparation Programs meet the International Dyslexia Association's Knowledge and Practice Standards for Teachers of Reading, Texas licensure requirements, criteria for membership in the Academic Language Therapy Association, and are approved by the International Multisensory Structured Language Education Council (IMSLEC).

Neuhaus Comprehensive Preparation Programs	Level 1 – DPPP *** Dyslexia Practitioner	Level 2-A – RTPP *** Reading Therapist	Level 2-B – DTPP Dyslexia Therapist
Minimum Degree Required	Bachelor's	Bachelor's	Advanced Degree
Time for Program Completion	1-2 years	2-5 years	2-5 years
Program Fee	\$200	\$400	\$400
Professional Development Hours*	85	200	200
Approx. total cost of Prof. Dev.	\$1,650	\$3,500	\$3,500
Teaching Practicum Hours**	85 a minimum of 2 situations	700 a minimum of 3 situations	700 a minimum of 3 situations
Demonstration Lessons	5 through <i>BLS</i> Book 1	10 through <i>BLS</i> Book 3	10 through <i>BLS</i> Book 3
Additional Requirements	Progress Reports 2 Book Reports	Progress Reports 4 Book Reports Case Study	Progress Reports 4 Book Reports Case Study
Alliance National Registration Exam Level Eligibility	Teaching Level	Teaching and/or Therapy Level	Teaching and/or Therapy Level
Texas Licensure Eligibility	Dyslexia Practitioner***	Dyslexia Practitioner***	Dyslexia Practitioner*** Dyslexia Therapist
Neuhaus Student Referrals Eligibility	No	No	Yes, while in-training or when licensed
Academic Language Therapy Association Membership Eligibility	Certified Academic Language Practitioner (CALP)	Certified Academic Language Practitioner (CALP) or Therapist (CALT)	Certified Academic Language Practitioner (CALP) or Therapist (CALT)
CEU's	10 hours each year	10 hours each year	10 hours each year

* Professional development includes a sequence of required and related coursework focused on teaching language, reading, and writing effectively and on the implementation of *Basic Language Skills* (Neuhaus Education Center, 2000, rev. 2006).

** Teaching practicum utilizes *Basic Language Skills (BLS)*.

*** Dyslexia Practitioners and Reading Therapists work under supervision.

