

**Handwriting Fluency Plus Reading Fluency Equals Success! by Cathy Angel & Ali Roemhild**  
**2:00 – 3:00 Friday afternoon--Activities Room**

Research tells us that students need fluent handwriting to enable them to be fluent readers. This is so important, and it is also much easier than it sounds!

- I. What does fluent handwriting have to do with reading proficiency?**
  - a. Probably more than you think!
  - b. Explicit handwriting has been eliminated to make room for other curriculum choices.
  - c. Did you know that only 33% of all 4<sup>th</sup> grade students in America performed at or above the NAEP proficient level?
  - d. Research is telling us that the lack of explicit handwriting instruction is playing a huge role in this loss.
- II. Reading and writing are reciprocal!**
  - a. Dyslexics and struggling readers need to write down what they are learning!
  - b. What should they write? 1) sound-spellings 2) spelling words 3) sentences using the skills that are taught in phonics lessons!
  - c. Writing helps move our thoughts from working memory to long term memory.
  - d. Your children cannot reap these benefits unless they have fluent handwriting!
- III. Phonemic Awareness:**
  - a. What is it? Manipulating the sounds in our language.
  - b. How does this help a child read?
  - c. Readers need to be taught how to blend, segment, add, delete, and substitute sounds within words to enable them to teach themselves new words.
- IV. Sight Words—we call them “Outlaw Words”**
  - a. How can we help children read and spell these words effectively?
  - b. What role do they play in helping a child become a fluent reader?
- V. Six Types of Syllables—Knowledge that supports reading and writing unknown words.**
  - a. Dyslexic students must be taught explicitly—both in phonics instruction as well as in handwriting instruction!
  - b. Our English language is NOT a crazy language! It is a deep language that has been built with words from many different origins.
  - c. Teaching the six syllable types and the rules that accompany them will allow your children will be able to read and spell 89% of all the words in our language!
- VI. Reading and Writing Application**
  - a. You can be a fabulous reading and writing teacher and still see no growth.
  - b. Explicit skill instruction is essential, but application of those skills is what produces results.
  - c. Teach reading and writing skills with authentic practice!