

Improving Handwriting with Interactive Metronome



Course Description:

Handwriting difficulty is one of the primary reasons for referral for Occupational Therapy services in school based settings and in private practice. The Interactive Metronome can be an effective therapeutic booster to help improve this functional life skill. This course will show how to incorporate various intervention approaches into IM treatment to help improve pre-writing, letter formation, sizing, spacing and alignment. These intervention approaches will include neurodevelopmental strategies, motor learning strategies, sensorimotor strategies and biomechanical strategies. The course will also show how to document and communicate improvement and using this documentation as a motivational tool.

Target Audience:

- Occupational Therapist
- Certified Occupational Therapy Asst
- Physical Therapist
- Physical Therapy Asst
- Athletic Trainer
- Licensed Medical Professional
- Educator

Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to:

- Describe 1-2 ways to incorporate neurodevelopmental, motor learning, sensorimotor and biomechanical strategies with IM to improve handwriting.
- Utilize before and after drawing, pre-writing and writing samples to demonstrate short-term improvement.

***Note: This course covers information that pertains to licensed therapists and therapy assistants. COTA and PTA professionals must practice IM under the supervision of a licensed OT or PT.**

Instructor:

Laura Carnes Kane, MS, OTR/L, has worked as an Occupational Therapist since 1995 in various settings with children, adolescents and adults with neurological concerns. Her clientele has included people with Traumatic Brain Injury, Parkinson's Disease, Seizure Disorder, ADHD, autism, Downs Syndrome, Williams Syndrome, Dystonia and Cerebral Palsy.

She has worked as the Occupational Therapist at Anchorage Independent School in Louisville, Kentucky, since 1999. In 2006, she became certified as an IM provider with a license at that school. Since 2007, she has also operated Occupational Rhythm, her private practice, out of her home and in the community. She has a separate IM license for her private practice.

After obtaining her BA degree in Communication/Public Relations from the University of Kentucky in 1992, she received her MS degree from Eastern Kentucky University in 1996. She has furthered her study with training in various therapeutic approaches. Her independent study and formal course work includes the Program in Sensory Integration from USC/WPS; Handwriting Without Tears; Brain Gym; Dr. Stanley Greenspan's DIR/Floortime model of social, emotional and intellectual development; and Mary Benbow's Neurokinesthetic Approach to Handwriting/the Loops and Other Groups cursive program. Additionally, she has provided numerous other presentations to educators and therapists. The topics have included fine motor skills and handwriting, sensory processing and incorporating rhythmic strategies into everyday life.

Disclosures:

Instructor Financial Disclosure(s): Laura received an honorarium for the development and presentation of this course from Interactive Metronome, Inc. She does not receive royalties or any other form of compensation for the continued publication and use of educational materials she has authored. Laura does not sell or receive compensation for the sale of Interactive Metronome products.

Instructor Nonfinancial Disclosure(s): Laura uses Interactive Metronome in clinical practice.

Course Content Disclosure:

The Interactive Metronome, Inc. has developed and patented a licensed technology trademarked as the Interactive Metronome®. (U.S. Patents #4,919,030; #5,529,498; #5,743,744; #6,719,690; other U.S. and foreign patents pending) Interactive Metronome, Inc. is the sole source of the following products: Interactive Metronome®, Gait Mate® and IM Home®. Because there are no other like-kind products available, course offerings will only cover information that pertains to the effective and safe use of the above-named products.

Agenda (60 minutes):

- Speaker introduction & disclosure
- Establishing baseline performance with drawing, pre-writing and handwriting
- Analyzing handwriting legibility and fluency through letter formation, sizing, spacing, alignment and speed.
- Incorporating neurodevelopmental strategies
- Incorporating motor learning strategies
- Incorporating sensorimotor strategies
- Incorporating biomechanical strategies
- Using technology to document progress with handwriting , to reinforce motor learning and to motivate clients.

Instructional Methods:

LECTURE, PPT, VIDEOS

CEUs:

This course is not offered for CEUs.