

SMILE Training Options

Structured Methods in Language Education: SMILE
A Multisensory Language Learning Program
Based on the Association Method

There are three options for learning the SMILE Association Method Program:

- (1) Independently using materials published by the Alexander Graham Bell Publications Department: SMILE Kit and SMILE Plus CD**
- (2) Two-day Total-Immersion Workshop**
- (3) Three-day Workshop Series including Follow-up Monitoring and Trainer-of-Trainer session**

- (1) The SMILE Manual that comes with the Kit has been designed to be user friendly with each step described and illustrated. There are five accompanying Teacher Guides, one for each module, both as hard copies and on CD. In addition the SMILE Plus has several explanatory pieces as well as sample materials that illustrate what is in the manual even further. This is a “how to do it” manual specifically written to be used as a tool for teachers, speech-language-pathologist and other direct intervention personnel who are unable to attend training sessions.**
- (2) The two-day workshop has been successful in making users aware of the intricacies of the method and giving more in-depth information. It includes simulation exercises and video examples of real-time student-teacher sessions and is appropriate when there is a limited time or funding and personnel want more information and explanation than could be written.**
- (3) The most complete training package, a three-day plus package to be described below is best when a school system or individual program wants a very detailed and structured procedure that would teach the program exactly as specified or modified so it still fits within the parameters established for the program. It includes illustrations of each step on videotape and powerpoints to emphasize each area.**

Both the two-day and three-session programs give users an opportunity to ask questions before beginning the program. In all cases the author, Dr. Enid Wolf-Schein, is available by e-mail to discuss any questions related to the rationale for or implementation of the program.

An overview of the three-day program is detailed below:

SMILE Training Options

Overview: Intensive Training for SMILE Association Method Curriculum

This three-day workshop series provides a detailed overview of *Structured Methods in Language Education* (SMILE), a multi sensory approach to teaching speech, reading, and writing skills to varying populations, including hearing impaired, autistic, intellectually disabled, traumatic brain injury, central auditory processing disorders, and others. SMILE teaches spoken language, reading and writing as part of a total educational management system. It addresses the needs of pupils who have problems with phonemic awareness, who have failed to learn to speak or read through "natural approaches." The method fits into the regular curriculum and is appropriate in programs emphasizing both oral and manual communication.

Participant Outcomes

- Participants will gain an understanding of *Structured Methods in Language Education: SMILE* a multisensory language-learning curriculum based on the Association Method that can teach speech, reading and writing to pupils with the most severe language-learning problems.
- Participants will be introduced to the scope and sequence of the SMILE curriculum that takes pupils from where they have no intelligible speech to a more appropriate conversational and reading competence.
- Participants will be able to compare the SMILE curriculum to natural-learning and other phonic-based methods.
- Participants will know the goals and short-term objectives for each of the five SMILE modules in order to incorporate them into the pupil's IEP in the areas of language and literacy.

Description:

SMILE is a highly structured, multisensory program that engages complex learners in a sequential program beginning with attention and imitation tasks, through phoneme and syllable learning, noun vocabulary, additional vocabulary including verbs, adjectives and adverbs, going on to simple sentences and then short stories. It has proved highly successful with students ranging from preschool through high school age who do not speak, read or write. Initial and Final Screening and ongoing data collection materials are part of the program and contribute to Evidence-Based Assessment.

The workshop takes place during three one-day sessions approximately a month to six-weeks apart so participants have the opportunity to implement the steps for each module before moving on to the next.

It is suggested a team of teacher and SLP from each program attend. It is also suggested the consultant and supervisor make school visitations to see that the program is correctly implemented. This can be arranged following each workshop. Also see below for Trainer-of Trainer paradigm.

Five Modules of SMILE

SMILE is divided into 5 MODULES each building upon the other: as soon as pupils achieve one step they immediately go on to the next. An important part of the routine for each module is the production by teachers of personalized reading books that are started

SMILE Training Options

only after a skill is learned and only contain material familiar to individual pupils. These are adapted to meet the visual capability of the pupil.

Day 1 Workshop SMILE INTO SOUNDS LANGUAGE MODULE 1

Begins with attention-getting activities. Auditory and visual attending and tracking skills are addressed. It continues with teaching of phonemes and graphemes, including steps that require visual as well as auditory discrimination and memory. Consonant-vowel combinations are introduced.

Day 2 Workshop SMILE INTO WORDS LANGUAGE MODULE 2

Teaches 50 nouns by a process called “cross drills.” A cross drill is a series of 3 consonant and vowel combinations in three or four rows that teaches speaking, reading and writing of sound combinations that will be the foundation for many words. Cross drills lead to words which are reinforced by saying, reading and writing as well as associating them with objects and pictures.

Day 3 Workshop SMILE INTO SENTENCES AND STORIES LANGUAGE MODULE 3

Introduces verbs, colors, numbers and plurals

LANGUAGE MODULE 4

Teaches simple sentences followed by the appropriate question to elicit the sentence. Language forms including possessives, prepositions, and past tense are also taught.

LANGUAGE MODULE 5

Develops description stories about animals, inanimate objects, people and experiences including questions and answers.

Materials

In addition to its systematic teaching process described in the Manual, SMILE includes 5 supplementary Teacher’s Guides, one for each module, that contain forms, worksheets and activities. These can be reproduced to make an individualized workbook for each pupil. The materials also include sound, word and picture cards and a CD, which prints out pupil workbooks. In short, SMILE offers a complete package, making it easy for practitioners to implement the teaching of speech, reading and writing.

There is also SMILE Plus, a set of three CD-roms that include supplementary assessment, teaching materials and corresponding reading books.

Conclusion

Intelligible speech and literacy is a goal for any pupil. With a structured teaching method such as SMILE, incorporating appropriate modifications, almost all pupils whether they have a severe language-learning disorder, hearing impairment, and/or other significant handicaps, should achieve success. It is suggested that the teacher, speech-language pathologist or other personnel working with the pupil attend a workshop and study the manual, so they feel comfortable with the program.

SMILE Training Options

Materials

Ordered in bulk SMILE Kits are \$190.00 and the SMILE Plus CD package \$34.00
All materials are reproducible, including reading books so this is a one-time cost.

Trainer of Trainer Paradigm

Several people who attend the workshop should be in a position to present workshops, provide follow-up monitoring of SMILE in the classrooms, and collect data for evidence-based programming based on the SMILE program. They would attend all sessions and go with Dr. Wolf-Schein during her follow-up support visitations. They could also be a liaison with Dr. Wolf-Schein for problem solving, etc. She would also provide them with materials for SMILE training. After year-one of the program this group should be able to implement the program independently.

SMILE and SMILE Plus are published by the *Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing*.

Brief Biography of Author - Presenter Dr. Wolf-Schein.

Other trainers are also available.

Dr. Enid G. Wolf-Schein has a BS and Ed.M. in Speech-Language Pathology from Temple University and an Ed.D. in Special Education and Speech-Language Pathology from Boston University. She has had Certification from ASHA since 1957 and is currently a Life Member and ASHA Fellow. After a series of positions as a speech pathologist, including the Philadelphia School System, Prince Georges County, MD, the Children's National Medical Center, Washington, DC, and the Center for Autistic Children, University of Pennsylvania she spent 12 years as a Special Education administrator in the District of Columbia Public Schools. In 1980 she joined the faculty of the Special Education program at New York University. In 1981 she became a Research Scientist - Psycholinguist at the *New York State Institute for Basic Research in Developmental Disabilities*. From 1989 to 1992 she taught in the *Severe Disabilities Program* at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta and served as a Chief Researcher for the *Alberta Education Response Center*. Her publications include seminal articles on the Fragile X syndrome, deafblindness and the autistic spectrum disorder. She is the author of several assessment tools for pupils with severe disabilities and the author of *Structured Methods in Language Education: SMILE and SMILE Plus*.

Currently she is a consultant in programming for special populations including among others New York City Department of Education District/75, Exceptional Student Education Broward County FL Public Schools, and others. She is also an Adjunct Professor at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada and a regular presenter for the Autism Community Training in Vancouver, BC.

For additional information contact Dr. Enid Wolf-Schein at scheinej@aol.com