



***The mission of the National Institute for Learning Development is to build the competence and confidence of those who struggle to learn by training educators and developing programmes.***

#### ***NILD's Philosophy***

*Believing that all students can learn and that the brain is open to modification at all stages of development, we provide direct and focused educational treatment for cognitive systems that are weak and vulnerable.*

**[www.NILDZimbabwe.org](http://www.NILDZimbabwe.org)**

### **LEVEL 1 TRAINING**

This course serves to develop a foundational methodology for training students how to learn by strengthening current cognitive systems to greater efficiency. The result for students in the National Institute for Learning Development (NILD) Educational therapy is significantly higher cognitive, academic, perceptual, and emotional functioning.

Participants will explore the usage of psychological and educational assessments, discovering real patterns of cognitive strengths and weaknesses. Participants will gain a comprehensive understanding and utilisation of the NILD Level 1 techniques. This course combines four weeks of online course work with one week of classroom instruction.

A minimum of three years is usually required to bring the student to a point of independent academic functioning. The goal, therefore, of NILD Educational Therapy™ is to equip students to succeed in the classroom and in life as independent learners. Several research studies are available on the programme. Dissertations have been completed with statistical data documenting the effectiveness of the programme. (These are available for purchase from NILD, Virginia, USA. [Website: www.nild.org](http://www.nild.org)) The Level I course that will be presented on behalf of NILD, will be held in Harare. The course fee will be \$1,500, which will include all NILD resources. The online part of the course will be delivered through Dropbox, and you will require Wifi access to participate in online discussions.

### **COURSE PREREQUISITES**

Training of NILD Educational Therapists is at a post-graduate level and is comprehensive and thorough. It allows for voluntary supervision during a 3-year internship period. Applicants must be in possession of a Baccalaureus Degree or 3-year diploma with some experience in the field of Learning Disabilities/ Learners with Special Educational Needs/ Remedial /Classroom Teaching. Non-teaching professionals

(e.g. Occupational Therapists, Speech Therapists) are also eligible for acceptance. If you have any queries about your eligibility, please contact [nildinzimbabwe@gmail.com](mailto:nildinzimbabwe@gmail.com).

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course equips the beginning Educational Therapist with the tools used to identify and assess student's learning needs and prepare the beginning educational therapist to create and implement individual educational therapy plans utilising the NILD techniques specific to educational goals for student.

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. **Demonstrate** a beginning understanding of NILD philosophy and methodology
2. **Describe** NILD's comprehensive approach that develops learning through perception, academics, cognition and emotions
3. **Explain** the differences between NILD methodology and tutoring
4. **Understand** how reading, math and spelling can be impacted by improving cognitive functioning
5. **Identify** learning challenges and apply specific tools to develop and enhance thinking skills
6. **Design** an educational therapy programme according to the strengths and vulnerabilities determined by assessment and implement an effective intervention program based on the NILD techniques
7. **Begin** to learn how to assess students annually
8. **Develop** literacy skills in the areas of phonemic awareness, phonics and syllabication

## PROGRAMME GOALS

This course will contribute to the fulfilment of the following NILD programme goals:

1. **Provide** initial understanding of introductory NILD techniques
2. **Develop** introductory level competency in the 5 core techniques
3. **Build** an initial awareness of NILD philosophy
4. **Provide** exposure to the characteristics of Learning Disabilities
5. **Give** introductory understanding of testing including:
  - a. WISC (IV and V)
  - b. Initial Testing
  - c. Annual Testing Process/Purpose
6. **Develop** understanding of how educational therapy techniques can develop cognition, perception, academics, and emotional development
7. **Provide** direction for setting up a beginning programme and understanding its initial relationships with home, school, and NILD
8. **Provide** an initial understanding of how reading, math, and spelling can be used to stimulate thinking
9. **Demonstrate** NILD programme efficacy and align NILD's Educational Therapy method with evidence-based, research-informed best practices

10. **Introduce** theories of learning to guide diagnostic and prescriptive mediation for enhancing students' thinking and learning

## ONLINE AND CLASSROOM ASSIGNMENTS

Full participation in all activities and assignments is expected, including attendance at all practical week classes. Prior to beginning the course, please arrange to observe an NILD educational therapy session – contact [nildinzimbabwe@gmail.com](mailto:nildinzimbabwe@gmail.com).

Participants will need to order books required, in advance of the course (see below) and to collect resources before the course commencement.

During the 4-week online segment of the course, participants will be required to:

- Watch video vignettes online
- Select a student with whom to practise techniques as they are learned
- Have a chalkboard available for practise sessions
- Practise techniques and complete reading assignments as assigned
- Complete reaction papers that require a personal response to the information read
- Read sections from prescribed books
- Contribute to online discussions weekly

During the one-week practical component of the course, participants will be required to:

- Attend classes from 8:00 to 17:00 daily
- Complete evening assignments
- Complete a testing assignment
- Do Level 1 technique demonstrations