**HANDLE® Level 3, Screener Course Description**

**Provided by Thoughtful Therapies of Homer, Alaska**

**Overview**

**This course is an opportunity to immerse yourself in the practice and theory of the HANDLE approach, giving you a professional certification to apply in business or in your current work.**

You will be taught to use the HANDLE Screening tool with people age five and over who want to address difficulties with academic learning, socializing, behavior or attention. Building on HANDLE Levels I and II, you will further your knowledge of the processes of learning, both in yourself and others, become able to identify underlying neurodevelopmental issues that affect how we function and learn to share this understanding with other people. You will learn to devise and teach individualized programs of HANDLE Activities and make recommendations designed to help people achieve their goals with more ease and enjoyment. Completion of HANDLE Level I and II courses is a prerequisite for this course.

The course is divided into two residential modules of seven and eight days each and a six month period of home study/distance learning. There are also home study assignments preceding each module.

Prior to enrollment there is an application process and Skype/phone interview with the course Instructor.

Module **1**

The course begins with each student having an individual HANDLE Screening1 from a HANDLE professional which will give you both insight into your own unique functioning and a program of HANDLE Activities tailored to your own needs.

You will then learn to use the HANDLE Screening Tool and begin to interpret your findings.

You will further explore the HANDLE model of neurodevelopmental systems and their interrelationships, giving you a more comprehensive understanding of learning and what can interfere with it.

You will deepen your experience and understanding of the HANDLE Activities you already know, learn many more Activities, and learn to vary them to meet individual needs.

You will begin to look at the process of presenting HANDLE to others in a public setting.

1 *The HANDLE Screening is a brief, practical evaluation to discover neurodevelopmental obstacles that interfere with learning for people aged 5 and upwards with mild to moderate difficulties. It is ideal for evaluating individuals or a group in a short period of time. Based on participating daily in the 10-15 minute program of HANDLE activities, the client begins a process of growth that can have beneficial effects in all areas of life.*

**Between sessions**

You will practice and refine the use of the Screening Tool during this time.

You will practice your own HANDLE Screening program, keeping notes and preparing to share your experiences with the class members.

You will continue to study and understand the activities and their variations.

You will prepare a five to ten minute section of a community presentation to present to your classmates during Module 2.

You will participate in online ½ hour to 1 hour class sessions once a week.

**Module 2**

You will share your interim experiences with the Screening Tool, HANDLE Activities and your individual HANDLE program with your class members.

As you continue to build a deeper knowledge and understanding of the HANDLE approach you will explore how to make sense of the findings of a Screening and ways to share them with the individuals with whom you will be working. (Presentation of findings)

You will learn to teach families how to recognize and address stress.

You will explore ways to impart compensatory intervention and strategies to prevent stress.

You will briefly look at complementary approaches as a first step in educating yourself about those that are available in your area and may be useful for the people with whom you will be working.

You will consider ways to build your HANDLE practice or to incorporate HANDLE into your present work.

You will **participate in three live Screenings** in a clinical setting over a four day period. You will work in groups of three students and a Supervisor. Participants will be working toward competence in:

✦      Administering the HANDLE Screening Tool in a flexible, non-judgmental way

✦      Analyzing the findings

✦      Developing an individualized program of HANDLE activities

✦      Presenting the findings and teaching the client his or her program using Gentle Enhancement®

✦      Teaching the client to recognize his or her own signs of stress

✦      Suggesting compensatory measures and strategies to relieve stress as the client gently enhances the systems that are being addressed

**Distance Learning**

Following Module 2 each student will have six months to complete an assignment known as the Interactive Learning Tool, which is essentially a written dialogue with an Instructor split into thirteen sections in which you demonstrate your understanding and ability to explain HANDLE principles in a clear and understandable manner.

In this final six months you are also required to undertake three full HANDLE Screenings which are written and submitted to an Instructor. This will also involve a written dialogue with an Instructor or Teaching Assistant.

During the distance learning you should expect to attend occasional online seminars and also have occasional individual supervision sessions online with an Instructor or Teaching Assistant to support you in the home study process.

**Certification**

Completion of the course is based on competency. If a student is not able to demonstrate competency during the course, arrangements will be made to complete requirements. Depending on the level of extra attention needed, this may incur extra costs.

Successful completion of the entire course, 100% attendance, take-home exam (Interactive Learning Tool), homework, Skills Acquisition, Activity Analysis, affiliation2 with The HANDLE Institute and an exit interview will qualify you for certification as a HANDLE Screener.

2*Upon being accepted into the Screener Course and attending your first day of class, you will automatically become a HANDLE Affiliate, all fees paid for the remainder of the first fiscal year ending March 31. After that, you will be asked to complete a short renewal form online and pay the Affiliate fee commiserate with your level of training/certification ($60 as a Student, $100 as a Screener).*

**Course Location**

Kerith Lodge in Monmouth, Oregon. <http://www.vrbo.com/641938> This beautiful new lodge is set on 17 acres with a versatile, roomy teaching space, sleeping accommodation and a commercial kitchen at our disposal. Bed and board is not included in the fee but will be kept to a minimum.

For further information or to register your interest in joining the course, please contact Cathy: handleofhomer@yahoo.com 907-235-6226 or home: 907-235-2978

**Note: There is a substantial fee reduction for the first five people who register before ~~September 1,~~ September 5, 2015, determined by date of receipt of the application form (with other papers to follow).**

For more about HANDLE please visit [www.handle.org](http://www.handle.org)

This opportunity comes around once every year or two in different parts of the country…don’t miss out!