The Presenter:
Mary Benbow MS, OTR, is a recognized expert in the area of neurological functioning in children including learning, social behavior, vision, and fine motor skills. She received her BA in OT from the University of Iowa in 1960 and her MS from Boston University in 1987. She completed an advanced study course in neuroanatomy at the University of Vermont Medical School. Mary is the author of the text Loops and Other Groups: A Kinesthetic Approach to Handwriting. She was the first author for the AOTA self-study course Handwriting in the Classroom. She has contributed chapters to 4 professional level texts on handwriting, developmental coordination disorders, and ergonomics. She developed prototypes for developmental activities for hand function including a guide for their use for both educators and parents. Mary has developed 12 training videotapes for therapists and educators to enhance function n school age children. In 1996, Mary was the recipient of the first Award for Outstanding Achievement from AOTA. IN 2004, she received the John Hancock award for her contributions to teaching handwriting in America.

Course Objectives
At the end of this entry-level course, participants will be able to:
1) Identify basic anatomical features and fine motor skill development.
2) Explain how neurological and environmental factors impact hand development.
3) Learn techniques to target the developmental components of fine motor skills, including accuracy, speed, and delicacy of touch.
4) Evaluate significant eye hand dominance findings, motor planning, and memory issues for learning graphic skills.
5) Determine written language needs/expectations based on the student’s facility with language.
6) Describe basic visual anatomy and its use in learning to write.
7) Implement practical classroom strategies to improve hand function, tool use, handwriting, and keyboarding skills.

Course Schedule
Day 1:
8:30 Registration/Breakfast
9:00 Learning about the hand: basic anatomy, environmental factors influencing hand development, & functional grasp patterns, fine motor skill development.
10:45 Break
11:00 Practical classroom activities: devices and strategies to improve hand function.
12:15 Lunch on your own
1:15 Video: developmental activities for the hand.
2:30 Break
2:45 Observation of hand skills in preschool/elementary children.
3:45 Problem solving/wrap-up
4:30 Adjourn

Day 2:
8:30 Vision & cognition and the impact on writing behavior: basic visual anatomy, visual control of posture and movement, visual control of the ocular motor system, visual cognition.
10:30 Break
10:45 Visual motor testing: error analysis and effect on school performance.
11:15 Graphograms: computerized study of motor behaviors when writing.
12:00 Lunch
1:00 Video: writing skills potential
2:00 Handwriting: kinesthetic learning techniques for classroom use.
3:00 Keyboarding readiness/Wrap-up
4:15 Adjourn

Registration Form
Mary Benbow’s The Learning Triad 2006

Name

Professional Credentials

Mailing Address

City State Zip Code

Phone Fax

Course Fees: $300

Total amount enclosed:

Please make checks payable to: Columbia University and mail with the registration form to:

Columbia University
Programs in Occupational Therapy
710 West 168th Street, 8th Floor
New York, NY 10032
Attn: Glen Gillen

Questions? Contact Glen Gillen at: 212-305-1648 or GG50@Columbia.edu
Registration Information
Course Fees:
$300

Refund/Cancellation Policy:
Tuition less a 20% administrative charge is refundable if written notice is received one week prior to the program's start. No refunds will be made after this date. We reserve the right to cancel the program for due cause. Cancellation by Columbia University will result in a full refund of tuition.

Approved: 1.2 CEUs
The assignment of AOTA CEUs does not imply endorsement of specific course content, products, or clinical procedures by AOTA.

The Learning Triad: How the Eyes, Hands, and Cognition Impact Writing and Other School Activities

April 1-2, 2006
Presented by:

Mary Benbow, MS, OTR

Course Location:
Columbia University Programs in Occupational Therapy, New York, New York.