

ABSTRACT
Presentation 68
SignWriting Symposium 2017

Sign Language Writing: SignWriting as a Tool in Deaf Literacy

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At the request of dear Valerie Sutton, I share with all our experience with SignWriting at the Special School for Deaf Friars Pacific. Located in the city of Porto Alegre, state of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, the school was founded in 1956 and continues its activities until today, attending all Elementary School (equivalent to the Junior School of the United States).

Since my entry as a Mathematics teacher in 2013, I can say that SignWriting began to be used more forcefully in almost every year (some teachers did not feel prepared to use or had no affinity with the system). In the last year we developed a kind of institutional policy of ours, so that SW was in all the materials produced and in the classes of all the disciplines, especially in

the first years, when the children go through the process of literacy and literacy.

This year we held a seminar focused on SW and the pedagogical possibilities it provides. We were surprised to see the great adherence of the school community and students, who also chose to attend the event. We are also happy to see that our students, especially the younger ones, have been able to express themselves and write, for example, letters to teachers - just as hearing students do.

Since last year, we have offered SW courses to the outside community. This year I am as a teacher of this course, which was developed in partnership with the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul.

Many of our activities are registered in three virtual media, in which photos and texts of what is happening at school are published:

- Website (<https://www.freipacifico.org.br>)
- Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/frei.pacifico/>)
- Blog (<https://freipacifico.blogspot.com.br/>)

I place myself at the disposal of conversations and debates, so that we carry on the beautiful project that we are all part of.

Big hug,
Fernando