

Learning Disabilities: Strategies to help adult learners in their quest for success!

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Section 1:

Overview of Project



Overview of Project

In November 2009, Literacy BC and the BC Coalition of People with Disabilities hosted a 3 day professional development series for adult literacy practitioners as part of the *Whole Life Approach to Learning Disabilities in Adult Literacy Settings*. The event participants were invited to apply for a small grant to address the needs of adult literacy practitioners in respect to learning disabilities in their communities. In our remote communities there are not often opportunities for professional development, especially in respect to adult learning. Most practitioners expressed the need for hands-on activities versus theory-based workshops. To address these needs, Kate Nonesuch was invited to the Kootenays to present her Head, Heart, Hands and Self Workshop to local Community Literacy Coordinators, ABE instructors, adult literacy practitioners and volunteer tutors. In receiving a grant, participants were asked to create a digital resource that could be accessed through the Literacy BC Library. This resource package is the resource that was created as the final product of the project. The DVD is a powerpoint presentation that includes video clips from Kate's workshop. As well, this resource package includes the activity sheets and a resource list.

This presentation would be useful for both staff and tutor trainings. Kate Nonesuch is a compelling presenter who has years of experience and knowledge to share.

Thank you to Literacy BC and the BC Coalition of People with Disabilities for the opportunity to participate in the *Whole Life Approach to Learning Disabilities in Adult Literacy Settings* project and to the Government of Canada's Office of Literacy and Essential Skills for their funding support.



Section 2:

Tips for Viewing DVD Presentation



Tips for Viewing DVD Presentation

Please note you must have PowerPoint 2010 to view the video content of this presentation. If you do not have this program, you may download the 2010 viewer for free!

To view presentation

1. Insert DVD into DVD drive.
2. Windows Explorer will open with the contents of the disc on display. (If it does not open, go to My Computer and double –click on the DVD-RW Drive to manually view the contents).
3. Double-click on the presentation.
4. The file will open using PowerPoint 2010 or PowerPoint 2010 Viewer (if you do not have PowerPoint 2010 please download PowerPoint 2010 Viewer for free directly from the Microsoft website).



Section 3:

Activity Sheets



Activity Sheets

In this section you will find...

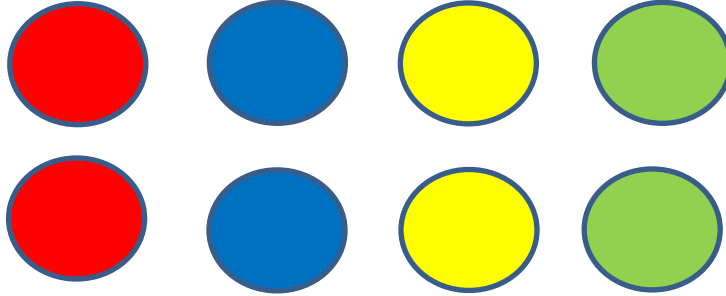
- ✓ Activity 1- Dots and Phonics
- ✓ Activity 2- Paper Line Fractions
- ✓ Activity 3- Human Digits handouts

All sheets may be reproduced for use in trainings and programs. These activities can be used in small group and one-to-one settings. Please see powerpoint presentation for specifics on how manipulatives can be used in adult literacy settings.



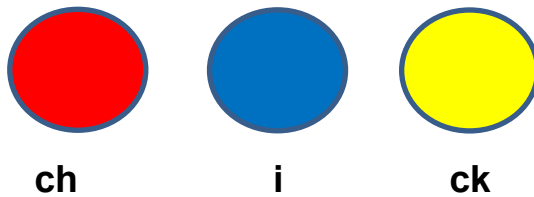
Activity #1- Dots and Phonics

1. Have two of each of the following colours: red, blue, yellow and green.

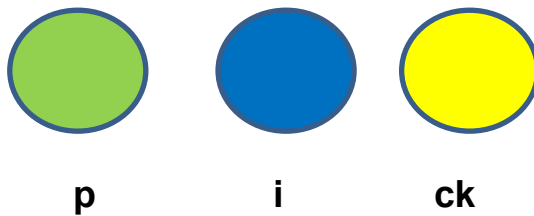


2. Use the coloured dots to visually represent the sounds in a word. For instance, the word “**chick**”

There are 3 sounds in this word: **CH** | **I** | **CK**- you would use three dots...



3. Another word is “**pick**”. The students should use the same colour for the same sounds.



4. Try some other words. For example, tough, did, think, etc. Using word families will help to build confidence. As the learner becomes more comfortable with sounds of words- spelling can be gradually introduced.

This way, learners are thinking about the way words sounds- opposed to how they are spelled!

Activity #2-Paper Line Fractions

What is a fraction?

A fraction is a way of representing division of a 'whole' into 'parts'.

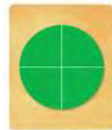
When talking about fractions it is easy to mistake which fraction would be bigger. For instance, if you asked a learner which is bigger...

$1/4$ or $1/8$

Which do you think a learner would choose?

Many learners may say $1/8$ as 8 is larger than 4. This is a common mistake, but by using pictures and hands on activities, learners will become more comfortable and confident.

If you were to show the same learner this chart, would they still make the same mistake?



$1/4$



$1/8$

Probably not. Visuals and manipulatives help to explain ideas and concepts that are difficult to picture in the mind.

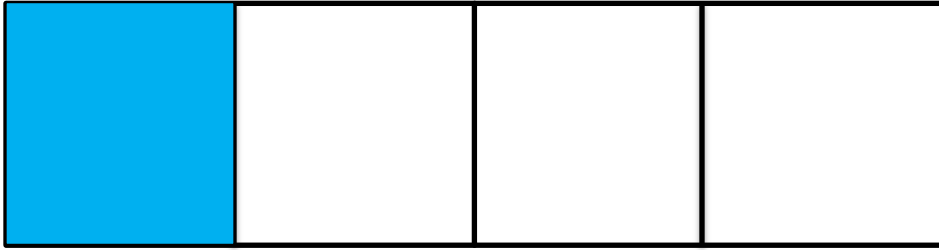
Let's see how a piece of paper can be used to explain fractions.

1. Take the strip of paper and fold it in half and then open it up again. Your paper should be divided in two equal halves.
2. Colour in one side- the fraction that is represented is $1/2$.



3. To represent fourths, fold the paper again in half and then fold again.

The paper is now divided into fourths!



Colour in 1 section and you now have $\frac{1}{4}$.

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Activity #3- Human Digits

This activity can be used with one person or a small group.

For this activity, imagine you are the learner. There are large, reproducible numbers included in the resource package.

1. You have been given 5 pieces of paper that have a different digit on each page.

8 3 5 7 2

2. Re-arrange the numbers to make the largest number possible.

8 7 5 3 2

3. Now re-arrange the numbers to make the smallest number possible.

2 3 5 7 8

As an extension activity, you could introduce the comma and have learners place the comma where it should be. As students get more comfortable you can make the game more complicated by working in larger groups.

0 1 2 3
4 5 6 7
8 9

Section 4:

Resources



Resource List

1. Kate Nonesuch, Changing the Way We Teach Math: A Manual for Teaching Basic Math to Adults available at : <http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/mathman/mathman.pdf>
 - Hands-On activities
 - Feelings and Math
 - Resources
2. Numeracy World <http://www.numeracyworld.com/>
 - Traditional Worksheets on addition, subtraction, multiplication, etc.
3. Instructional Materials for Adult Learners: <http://literacy.kent.edu/illinois/illearners1.htm>
 - Money
 - Basic Math
 - Algebra
 - Fractions
 - And Much More!
4. Lisa Campbell and NWT Literacy Council, Everyday Math Skills available at: <http://library.nald.ca/learning/browse/series?name=Everyday+Math+Skills>
5. Slider Math: <http://www.slidermath.com/wjava/Slam3c.shtml>
6. Understanding Essential Skills: http://www.rhdcc-hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/workplaceskills/essential_skills/general/understanding_es.shtml
7. Teachers Paradise: <http://www.teachersparadise.ca/castore/index.php>
 - Resources
8. The Learning Tree Educational Store: <http://www.learningtreecanada.com/>
9. Googal Learning Store: <http://www.googolpower.com/content/>
10. Literacy BC: <http://www.literacybc.ca/PLRC/ResourceCentre.php>
11. National Adult Literacy Database (NALD): <http://www.nald.ca/>

*Additional resources can be found within the powerpoint presentation.

