



Tri-County Literacy Council
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Tutor Connection

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Happy New Year

*The Best
Motivational Video
Ever*

Essential Skills

On the Bookshelf

*Keppel Disney's
Story - Why reading
is important?*

*The future
depends on what
we do in the
present. -
Mahatma Gandhi*

Happy New Year! It is a time to start anew. As Miss Stacy from Anne of Green Gables says 'Today is a new day with no mistakes in it yet.' Life seems to be always about starting again fresh. It is time for new short-term goals to help your student move in the direction he/she wants to go. Remember, building on success is an important part in our literacy program.

Best Motivational Video Ever

If you and your student need a little motivation to get you going in this New Year, watch this inspirational video titled "The Best Motivational Video Ever":
www.youtube.com/watch?v=_tjYoKCBYag

What are Essential Skills?

The Government of Canada has identified nine Essential Skills that are necessary in work and life.

They are: Reading Text, Document Use, Numeracy, Writing, Oral Communication, Working with Others, Thinking Skills, Computer Use and Continuous Learning.

Many adults new to literacy are focused on the first four skills: reading, using documents, math and writing. 'Laubach Way to Reading', 'Challenger' series, 'Voyageur' series and 'Breakthrough to Math' series can provide the foundation needed to acquire these skills.

Essential skills are measured from the basic to the complex, depending on the skill level needed to complete a task. Essential Skill profiles have been developed for over 150 occupational groups (http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/wor_kplaceskills/essential_skills/genera1/home.shtml.) The profiles describe the Essential Skills used by a worker in a specific occupation, as well as, the level of complexity required for each task.

Following are a series of short quizzes that indicate your strengths and weaknesses in numeracy, document use and reading at various levels:

http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/wor_kplaceskills/essential_skills/genera1/online_indicator.shtml

On the Bookshelf

Following is an article from *Shawna Steele*, one of our co-op students from St. Lawrence College Social Service Worker Program:

At Tri-County Literacy Council, we have bought many new resources, such as "How to use a Dictionary" and "Reading Comprehension". Our tutors can use these resources to provide students with a great learning experience.

The book "Reading Comprehension" has six different units, which are all about reading in different situations. It helps to teach how to read at home, school, in the community, in the marketplace and in the workplace. Each unit starts with a preview and provides learning tools such as: using synonyms and antonyms, classification, sequence and word analysis. At the end of each unit is a review that has a summary lesson of everything learned, including a crossword puzzle.

In the "Home" unit there are sections on reading medicine labels, pet care, working in the kitchen and cooking, home entertainment, laundry and how to read a telephone book.

"Reading in the Community provides lessons plans on how to read city maps, read at the airport, read a bus route, read the floor map of a mall, and voting rights.

Each unit provides at least seven categories, each one being equally as important so that the student can improve their everyday reading.

Tri-County Literacy Council is pleased to have these resources and is looking forward to seeing the success that they bring to our tutors and students.

Reading

It is no surprise to us that reading is an Essential Skill, but what may astonish you is how it can devastate an adult's life if this basic skill is not in place. Filling out an application form, travel, purchasing groceries, reading a menu, finding work, reading a prescription, and even reading ads, all becomes a challenge. Following is the story of Keppell Disney and his struggle and triumph to learn to read and write:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?gl=CA&hl=en&v=WJrvEOaImKY&feature=related>

Not failure, but low aim, is crime. - James Russell Lowell



Goals are the fuel in the furnace of achievement.
Brian Tracy, Eat that Frog

