

ESL Support Available to Your Community

Over the past 4 years Alberta Advanced Education and Alberta Human Resources Employment has offered free ESL support to Alberta communities to help them develop and deliver effective ESL programs to their clients. This service will continue to be available through NorQuest College.

Here's what's available:

1. Access to experienced ESL consultants.

They will be pleased to answer your questions, help you strategize an ESL needs assessment in your community, assist you to design your ESL program, provide ESL training for your tutors and instructors or guide you in selecting resources.

2. **ESL workshops.** NorQuest College will offer up to 14 ESL workshops across the

province. You can book a workshop and choose topics that will meet your training needs.

3. On-line Professional Development.

You will soon be able to access 3 on-line ESL workshops through the NorQuest College website. They include: One-on-One Instruction, Teaching Pronunciation, and Teaching Strategies.

4. **Three ESL newsletters.** These will be sent out in November, 2006, January, 2007 and March, 2007.

To access these free services contact:

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Teaching Technique

Label that picture!

This activity will help generate vocabulary and practice spelling in a fun way.

Divide your class into teams. Draw a skeleton of an automobile on a flip chart. Make one for each team.

Post the flip chart pages on the wall and give each team two felt markers.

Call out the name of an automobile part, for example, tire. One team member should draw on the part while another writes it down. The first team to draw and label the picture (correctly spelled) gets a point.

Vary this by having one of the learners call out the parts.

You can do this in a tutoring situation as well. You can also use different themes such as drawing your house or garden or naming body parts.

Teaching Tip

Maximize Student Talking Time, Minimize Teacher Talking Time

Making students speak to each other instead of the teacher maximizes STT (Student Talking Time) and minimizes TTT (Teacher Talking Time). This is a good thing because the students are the ones who need to practice their English - you, hopefully, don't!

Learning English is like learning to play the piano/to drive/to swim etc. When you want to learn to play the piano/drive/swim is it enough just sit and watch other people doing it or do you need to have a try yourself and make mistakes and practice a lot until you get it right?

Speaking a new language works the same way. Giving your students the opportunity to practice is the best way to help them learn.

The CLB describe what adult second language learners can do, using English, at twelve levels of proficiency, or benchmarks.

November 2006

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"I am always ready to learn although I do not always like being taught."

Winston Churchill

Focus on Resources

The ESL Resource Package for Alberta Communities (ERPAC) has been revised. You will be able to download it from the NorQuest website at www.norquest.ca

Can Do Checklists are now available for Benchmarks 9 and 10. Find them at www.language.ca under Publications

LINC "Byte into English" linking computer skills and English instruction available from Edmonton Catholic Schools
e-mail: daviesj@ecsd.ca

ATESL Conference

The Annual Alberta Teachers of English as a Second Language (ATESL) conference Current Under Currents was held in Edmonton Oct 13 & 14.

Keynote speaker, Anna Maria Tremonti's message was to Ask Questions. It is our obligation and we should do it for one simple reason – because we can.

On Saturday Ilona Leki looked at how to provide feedback to student writing that will actually help their writing improve. Other ses-

sions informed and inspired ESL instructors from across the province.

ATESL is the professional organization for ESL teachers across the province. Membership costs from \$30 - \$45 annually depending on whether you are a volunteer or a regular ESL instructor. Benefits of membership include: a regular newsletter, TESL Canada journal, reduced rates at the conference, and lots of information on professional opportunities.

You can find out more about the ATESL at their website www.atesl.ca

Exploring www.language.ca

Have you browsed this website? You definitely should add it to your favourites and look at it often.

It is the website for the Centre for Canadian Language Benchmarks and is the portal to many valuable resources, the latest research, lesson plans, the newsletter "Inside Language", and more. This website is constantly being updated and new resources are con-

tinually being added. Everything here is referenced to the Canadian Language Benchmarks which are the official Canadian standard for "describing, measuring and recognizing the language proficiency of adult immigrants...". These are the materials you need as a basis for your ESL program.

If you don't already have a free copy of the Canadian Language Benchmarks 2000: English as a Second Language for Adults, log on now and order it.

Essential Skills and your Curriculum

Many of you are aware of the Essential Skills and are integrating them into your curriculum and your teaching. Recently there have been many new resources developed around the Essential Skills. Here is a list of the websites where you can find these resources.

HRSDC Website for Essential Skills http://srv108.services.gc.ca/english/general/home_e.shtml

- For the most comprehensive information about Essential Skills this site is the starting place
- Contains the Essential Skills Profiles and the Reader's Guide

It's Essential www.itsessential.ca.

- The Canadian Language Benchmarks' Essential Skills Website
- Contains The Comparative Framework to bridge the CLB and the Essential Skills
- Contain sample lesson plans incorporating the Essential Skills and "Tips and Tricks" in the "On the Job" series

Skill Plan www.skillplan.ca

- B.C. Construction Industry Skills Improvement Council
- Offers several publications around improving workplace essential skills

Measure Up <http://measureup.towes.com/>

- Skill Plan website in conjunction with TOWES and HRSDC
- Provides an opportunity to practice the essential skills of Reading Text, Document Use and Numeracy

Applications of Working and Learning (AWAL) <http://www.awal.ca/>

- A professional development project for educators.
- Helps connect workplace environments to curriculum
- Includes workplace applications of Human Resources Development Canada's nine essential skills

ESPORT Essential Skills Portfolio <http://www.esportfolio.com/ESPORT/english/>

- HRSDC collection of authentic workplace materials.
- Encourages the use of a variety of materials in classroom learning activities.



ESL Rural Routes

This newsletter is funded by:
Alberta Advanced Education and Technology
Alberta Employment and Immigration
Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

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"Essential Skills are the skills needed for work, learning and life. They provide the foundation for learning all other skills and enable people to evolve with their jobs and adapt to workplace change."

Upcoming Workshops

Essential Skills

Cold Lake

Dec 5, 1:00 – 3:30

Introduction to ESL

Cold Lake

Dec 5, 7:00 – 9:00 pm