

Serving Young Adults in Adult Education Programs: Strategies and Materials

Presented by

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Center for Literacy, Inc.

The Center for Literacy provides a range of literacy services to help a diverse population of learners achieve their personal and employment-related goals.

Center for Literacy, Inc.

- ✓ ABE Classes and Tutoring
- ✓ GED Classes and Tutoring
- ✓ ESL Classes and Tutoring
- ✓ Family Literacy
- ✓ Workforce Development
- ✓ Adult Diploma Program
- ✓ In-school and Out-of-School Youth Programs

Please Share...

What are your expectations for this session?

What burning questions do you have?

Session Objectives

- ✓ Identify factors influencing increase of younger learners in adult programs
- ✓ Identify key characteristics of younger learners
- ✓ Evaluate materials for age appropriateness
- ✓ Evaluate lessons for age appropriateness

Session Objectives...ITA

- ✓ Highlight key elements to consider when making program decisions for serving OSY
- ✓ Review examples of program models for serving OSY
- ✓ Address participant expectations and questions

The Numbers

- OAVE reports a 6% increase of 16-24 year-olds from 1999 to 2000, after remaining steady from 1991-1999
(Welch and DiTommaso)
- CFL reports an 8% increase of 16-24 year-olds from 1996 to 2006
(Taylor-Dunn and Korber)

National Statistics

- ✓ ETS's report **One Third of a Nation** estimates that ~ 30% of high school students are leaving without a diploma.
- ✓ In 2000, 44.6 % of GED certificates were awarded to teenagers between the ages of 16 and 19.
- ✓ The number of OSY continues to rise.

Statistics for Philadelphia

- ✓ Currently, in Philadelphia, there are an estimated 30 thousand out-of-school youth.
- ✓ Philadelphia Safe and Sound reports that in 2005-2006 only 60.6% of all 9th graders who entered high school four years prior actually graduated.

Statistics for Your Community

Think-Pair-Share:

- ✓ What is happening in your local community?
- ✓ What are your experiences with the number of younger learners?
- ✓ Has your organization discussed services to youth?

No Child Left Behind and State Standards

- ✓ Many literacy providers attribute the increase in youth seeking service to higher high school standards
- ✓ Increased pressure on school systems may be leading to "push-outs" in order to meet graduation rate expectations

Shout Out:

What are the characteristics of younger learners?

Characteristics of Out of School Youth

- Fewer life experiences
- Impulsive
- Technology savvy
- Still developing problem solving skills
- High drama
- Heavily influenced by peers
- Negative experiences with school are recent
- Need for frequent emotional support
- Creative and intelligent

Shout Out:

What are some of the challenges in serving out of school youth?

Challenges in Serving Out of School Youth

- Intensity of needs are greater than adults
- Have fewer coping skills and life skills to overcome obstacles
- More challenging to get engaged and keep engaged
- Materials on hand might not have topics of interest

How are these characteristics and challenges reflected in the materials and teaching techniques used?

Evaluating Materials

Review Material Evaluation handout

Shout Out:

What would you add to this checklist?

Evaluating Materials

Activity – Choose a partner and a piece of material. Complete the evaluation form.

Be prepared to discuss your responses and, if appropriate, how you might use the material for instruction.

Lesson Plans

Jigsaw:

Review Lesson Plans handout

Be prepared to discuss the characteristics of younger learners that each plan addresses.

Programmatic Decisions Key Elements to Consider

- ✓ Funding
- ✓ Partnerships
- ✓ Staffing
- ✓ Curriculum/Materials
- ✓ Support Services
- ✓ For a comprehensive checklist, go to www.nyec.org (see bibliography)

Youth Programs at CFL

E³ Centers

- ✓ 5 Centers in operation
- ✓ Managed by CBO's; operated by Philadelphia Youth Network (PYN)
- ✓ Provide education, employment, occupational skills and daily living skills to 14-21 y.o.

Youth Programs at CFL

- Program Specific Classes
- ✓ Community Classes
 - Pre-Gateway to College
 - Youth/Adult Mixed Classes
- ✓ Literacy classes as part of WIA funded programs

Youth Programs Should:

- ✓ Use materials that reflect interests and needs of the younger population
- ✓ Welcome parents, case managers, and others at orientations
- ✓ Employ youth-friendly educational staff

CFL's Toolkit for Serving OSY with Low Literacy Levels

- Features:
 - ✓ Standards and Indicators of Quality Instruction
 - ✓ Resources and Materials
 - ✓ Lesson Plans
 - ✓ Literature Review
 - ✓ Professional Development Plan
- www.centerforliteracy.org

Things to Read...

1. **"The Silent Epidemic"**
www.civicenterprises.net
2. **"One Third of a Nation"**
www.ets.org
3. **"Reading Next"**
www.all4ed.org
4. **"NYEC EDNet Tool, 2nd Edition"**
www.nyec.org

Things to Read...

5. **"Youth in Adult Literacy Education Programs"**
www.ncsall.net
6. **"The Teenage Brain: A Work in Progress"**
www.nimh.nih.gov
7. **"Unfulfilled Promise" and "Turning it Around" (Philadelphia's story)**
www.projectturn.net

For more information...

- ProLiteracy's Online PD offerings
- Feel free to contact us
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Let's review...

What are your expectations for this session?

What burning questions do you have?