

T.O.O.L.S. for Work Supplement 8

Foundation Skills for Children

Materials: None

Prerequisites: Completion of Sessions 1-8 and Supplement 6 Introduction to Family Literacy. This supplement is most useful for participants with children, but informative for those without, as well.

Lesson duration: 30 minutes

I. SCANS Foundation Skills

A. Review SCANS Foundation Skills together. Ask if the participants can see why these skills can usually be learned at home or in school.

B. Point out that many schools are focusing more on developing Foundation Skills even in young students beyond reading, writing, and math.

1. Ask if participants with children have noticed that they are bringing home projects or assignments that involve working as part of a team.

2. Ask if the projects seem to involve more than just one skill. For example, children might need to do research requiring reading, writing, math and problem-solving.

3. Schools are doing this in order to prepare children to enter today's competitive and demanding workforce.

II. Parent as teacher

A. Point out that participants, as their children's first teachers, can support the development of these Foundation Skills at home.

B. Review the skills list together. Ask participants to suggest ways they might support the development of these Foundation Skills. Write their answers on the board. Some examples might be:

- asking an older child to read to a younger one
- asking an older child to help you make out a grocery list, letting them do the writing
- teaching children to write down telephone messages
- letting a child read simple cooking instructions as you work together in the kitchen
- asking a beginning reader to help you with street signs as you drive
- encouraging the use of imagination and thinking things through ("Gee, I don't know how you could earn money for a new bike. Why don't you write down all your ideas while I wash dishes?")