

A Child's Education

Topic Development Ideas

Classes might want to learn more about...

- after-school, summer programs
- compulsory French instruction in elementary and secondary school
- cultural differences in teachers', parents', and students' roles and expectations
- daycare and preschool
- differences between the education system in Canada and other countries
- documents needed for school registration
- education system in Ontario
- ESL and heritage language programs for children
- extra-curricular activities
- French immersion programs
- professional development days, school holidays
- programs for children with special needs
- programs that may require parental consent (e.g., sex education)
- school boards and trustees

Strategies for Learners

Learners find it useful to...

- ask a classmate or instructor to explain comments on child's report card
- ask for a translator for parent-teacher interviews
- ask for repetition and rephrasing to clarify information
- ask for written versions of verbal information
- attend kindergarten or high-school open-house sessions before choosing school for their child
- contact teacher or principal to discuss concerns, questions
- practice parent-teacher interviews in class, prepare and practice questions to ask a teacher during an actual interview
- read and discuss standardized report cards
- volunteer in child's school

Resources for Developing and Teaching Topic

- 📖 *Canadian Concepts 3, First Edition*: Unit 3, "Education"
- 📖 *Ontario Reader 1997*: "Children benefit when parents involved at school"
- 📖 *The ESL Tool Box*: Unit 4, "Culture Checks"
- 📖 *The Oxford Picture Dictionary, Canadian Edition*: Unit 9, "Areas of Study"
- 📖 *The Pizza Tastes Great*: Unit 8, "Schools and Children"
- 📖 *Welcome to Canada*
- 🌐 blank standardized report cards available from government web site:
<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/forms/report/1998/report98.html>
- 🌐 Government of Canada: http://www.canada.gc.ca/main_e.html (Canadians, Newcomers to Canada)
- 🌐 Ontario Ministry of Education: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca> (Elementary/Secondary)
- 🌐 Private Schools in Ontario: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/privsch/index.html>
- 🌐 Settlement.org: <http://www.settlement.org> (Education)
- 🔍 **Ontario school system, Ontario education, Ontario ministry of education**

A Child's Education

Topic Outcomes (CLB 3, 4)

Possible outcomes for this topic:

- 👂 indicate communication problems and ask for an explanation
- 👂 leave a short telephone message about child's absence from school
- 👂 express preference, satisfaction, or dissatisfaction regarding child's education (e.g., time of class, school, courses)
- 👂 understand factual details and some implied meanings in a listening text
- 📖 get information from a short school note or form letter
- 📖 find information in a school board directory or guide
- 📖 find information in a report card
- ✍ write a simple message to child's teacher as a three- to five-sentence note
- ✍ describe child's school-day routine in five to eight sentences

Language Focus

Items to help learners achieve the outcomes:

- vocabulary (*elementary, secondary, post-secondary, continuing education, enrol, extracurricular, grade, semester, mid-term, achievement, subject, PD day, special education*)
- phrases for indicating communication problems (*Sorry, I didn't understand, Could you explain it again please?*)
- modals: ability, obligation, necessity, requests (*can, can't, have to, must, may, would*)
- prepositions: time, location
- questions: yes/no, wh-
- verb tenses: simple past, simple present
- note-writing conventions
- pronunciation: intonation and pitch patterns when indicating satisfaction and dissatisfaction

Sample Tasks

1. Role-play a parent-teacher interview.
2. Listen to a story about a child's day at school and answer questions about the order of events.
3. Read a report card. Answer true/false questions.
 - 📖 **Novice:** Insert text or use Overtyping to make corrections in sentences about the child's achievements and abilities, as shown on the report card in Language Task 3.
Skills: Open, Overtyping, Insert Text
4. Write a note explaining a child's absence from school.
 - 📖 **Novice:** Word-process a note to your ESL instructor explaining absence from school. Check spelling, preview, and print for peer evaluation.
Skills: Keyboarding, Spelling, Print Preview, Print

Additional Tasks

- 📖 **Experienced:** Create a table showing name, address, telephone number, and principal of local elementary and secondary schools. Refer to a school board directory to complete the table and perform several sorts using different columns as the key.
Skills: Insert Table, Format Table, Table Sort

Effective Learning

Topic Development Ideas

Classes might want to learn more about...

- advantages/disadvantages of being an adult learner
- cultural differences in roles of instructors and learners
- current adult ESL methodology (e.g., pair and group work, task-based learning)
- differences in classroom activities and assessment methods in Canada and in other countries
- factors outside the classroom that may affect learning (e.g., health, sleep, nutrition, family problems)
- learning resources such as different types of dictionaries, language labs, libraries, audio tapes, videotapes, and the Internet
- learning styles (auditory, tactile, visual)
- self-directed learning
- techniques and strategies for improving proficiency in each skill area

Strategies for Learners

Learners find it useful to...

- ask for clarification, repetition, or translation
- create opportunities to use English outside the classroom (e.g., ask for directions even when unnecessary)
- make intelligent guesses from context
- participate fully in classroom and school activities
- use rhymes and word associations to remember new vocabulary and language rules

Resources for Developing and Teaching Topic

- 📖 *The ESL Toolbox*: Unit 9, “Language Learning Strategies”; Unit 10, “Feedback and Checklists”
- 📖 *Working Skills for Immigrant Women, Second Edition*
- 📄 *Canada Prospects*: <http://www.careerccc.org/canadapropects>
- 🎧 Tense Buster – Lower Intermediate – On your own sections
- 🌐 continuing education pages on local board of education web site
- 🌐 The Island Adult Development Association: <http://www.ldpride.net/learningstyles.MI.htm> (Learning Styles)
- 🔑 **learning, learning style, self-directed learning**

Effective Learning

Topic Outcomes (CLB 3, 4)

Possible outcomes for this topic:

- 🗣️ indicate communication problems and ask for explanations
- 🗣️ ask for, offer, accept, or decline assistance
- 🗣️ give a brief description
- 🗣️ express immediate and future needs, wants, plans
- 🗣️ express preference, satisfaction, or dissatisfaction
- 🔗 identify expressions used to ask for, offer, and accept assistance
- 📖 get information from a simple explicit one- to two-paragraph text
- 📖 use a standard reference text (e.g., dictionary)
- ✍️ write a five- to eight-sentence text about personal learning strategies

Language Focus

Items to help learners achieve the outcomes:

- vocabulary (*learning style, visual, auditory, hands-on, visualize, quiz*)
- adverbs of frequency
- modals for requests
- verbs + gerund or infinitive to express likes, dislikes, needs, wants
- verb tenses: simple present, simple past
- pronunciation: pausing and pitch changes in thought groups (*Finally, // each time you learn a new word, // copy the word into your learning journal, // practice the pronunciation // and use it in a sentence*)

Sample Tasks

1. In a group, brainstorm ways of improving your English and make a list of strategies to share with the class.
 - 📄 **Novice:** Create and show a presentation of the strategies from Language Task 1.
Skills: (PowerPoint) Create a New Presentation, Font, Font Alignment, Insert Bullets and Numbering, Insert Clip Art, Show a Presentation
2. Listen to a dialogue of an ESL learner asking for assistance in improving his/her English. Fill in the blanks on a worksheet to complete the dialogue.
 - 📄 **Experienced:** Work with a partner. Use Windows Sound Recorder and your completed worksheet from Language Task 2 to record the dialogue. Save the file to allow your instructor or other learners to listen.
Skills: (Windows Sound Recorder) Controls, Save, Peripherals (Speakers, Headset)
3. Read a simple text about strategies for effective learning and answer questions. Decide which would be good for you.
4. Write about your strategies for learning English.

Personal Educational Experience

Topic Development Ideas

Classes might want to learn more about...


- Canadian equivalencies for educational experience
- differences in education systems throughout the world
- financial assistance available for students in Ontario, such as OSAP, scholarships, and grants
- Prior Learning Assessments
- requirements for re-entry into one's own occupation, such as TOEFL and professional licensing exams
- self-directed learning
- translation, evaluation, and comparison of educational qualifications from outside Ontario
- types and locations of non-credit courses for adults

Strategies for Learners


Learners find it useful to...


- ask for translation or written version of verbal information
- have own education documents translated
- interrupt the instructor appropriately to ask for repetition, rephrasing
- participate actively in class
- practice expressing educational qualifications in Canadian terms
- scan, skim course calendars for relevant information
- talk to counsellor or instructor before choosing a course
- use the experience of others to plan own learning

Resources for Developing and Teaching Topic


 *Interchange 2*: Unit 1, “A time to remember”

 *Ontario Reader 2001*: “High achiever”


 flyers and calendars from local boards of education, colleges, universities, parks and recreation

 *CLB Listening/Speaking Resource*: Stage II, Settlement dialogues 52, 53


 Canadian Information Centre for International Credentials: <http://www.cicic.ca>

 Government of Canada: <http://www.canada.gc.ca> (Canadians, Newcomers to Canada, A Newcomer's Introduction to Canada)

 Independent Learning Centre: <http://ilc.edu.gov.on.ca>

 Ontario Ministry of Education: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca>

 Settlement.org: <http://www.settlement.org> (Education)

 **continuing education**, specific board of education (e.g., **Halton District School Board**)

Personal Educational Experience

Topic Outcomes (CLB 3, 4)

Possible outcomes for this topic:

- tell a story about personal educational experience
- give a brief description of schools in own country
- express immediate and future needs, wants, and plans
- follow two- to five-step instructions presented in order
- understand factual details and some implied meanings in a listening text
- find information in a school calendar
- get information from a simple one- to two-paragraph text
- write five to eight sentences about own educational experience
- describe schools in own country in five to eight sentences

Language Focus

Items to help learners achieve the outcomes:

- vocabulary (*upgrade, continuing education, credit, non-credit, diploma, certificate, degree, on-line, requirement, correspondence, prerequisite*)
- adjectives and adverbs: equative, non-equative
- questions: wh-, yes/no
- verb tenses: simple present, simple past, future with *going to*
- pronunciation: reduced forms of going to (*He's gonna*)

Sample Tasks

1. Ask a partner questions about the educational system in her/his country and record the answers.
2. Listen to someone describe her/his school experience. Record important details (e.g., school, program, length of study).
3. Look in a continuing education guide or community college calendar for courses that interest you. Find information such as the location, starting date, and prerequisites for the course.
 - **All Levels:** Go to the local board of education web site. Search in the continuing education section for the location and time of a course you are interested in. Report back to the class.
Skills: Internet Basics, Browsers, Search Engines, Search Types, URL, Bookmarks/Favorites, Hyperlink
4. Write a description of own educational background.
 - **Novice:** Word-process Language Task 4. Insert and format date, spell-check, preview, and print.
Skills: Keyboarding, Insert Date and Time, Spelling, Print Preview, Print