

Learning to assess emergent readers

by Pat Campbell

■ Do you work with adults who are emergent readers—those who are just developing basic strategies for decoding print? If so, you will know that there are few resources to support work with this group.

A project is underway to produce an assessment toolkit, a textbook, and a DVD just for you! The toolkit will provide educators and students with information that is useful in promoting *emergent readers'* growth in literacy. It will contain a range of tools and manipulatives to assess adults'

- literacy practices,
- knowledge of print conventions and concepts,
- book handling,
- phonemic and phonological awareness,
- sight word recognition, and
- phonics knowledge.

The purpose of the assessment toolkit will be to provide diagnostic information that can help educators plan individualized lessons and measure progress. The textbook will describe approaches and strategies for teaching emergent readers and the demonstration DVD will show vignettes of three emergent adult readers being assessed and taught.

The project is sponsored by The Centre for Education and Work (CEW) and funded by the Office of Literacy and Essential Skills. Pat Campbell, the project coordinator, is developing the toolkit in partnership with the Centre for Family Literacy, Norquest College, Vancouver Community College, The Toronto Public Library, and Literacy Nova Scotia.

If you'd like more information about the project, please contact Pat Campbell at 780-448-7323. ■