

# REEP ESL Curriculum for Adults

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## LEARNER NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Assessing the needs, interests, and goals of learners is an integral part of the REEP Curriculum and is important in achieving the program's goal of creating "learner-centered" classrooms.

**Class Goal Setting/Curriculum Negotiation:** Each instructional level contains more lifeskills units than could reasonably be covered during one cycle of instruction. Through needs assessment activities, students negotiate which units will be covered. In other words, students decide the contexts through which they wish to learn language skills. Needs assessment is a component of the "Getting Started Unit", which is the first unit (and the only required unit) in each instructional level.

**Unit Needs Assessment:** Needs assessment is also a component within each lifeskills unit. See Unit Needs Assessment in this section for guidelines and suggested activities.

**On-going Needs Assessment:** Needs Assessment should be done routinely in order to ensure that learner needs and goals are being met and to assist the teacher in planning effective lessons that are relevant to the learners' needs. Final needs assessment should occur at the end of a course to take account of accomplishments and to help learners make decisions about educational goals for the future.

For information on designing effective needs assessment activities, go to [Characteristics of effective needs assessment activities.](#)

### Sample needs assessment activities:

[Picture Questionnaire](#)  
[Mind Mapping](#)  
[Learner Generated Questionnaire](#)  
[Information Grids](#)  
[Timelines](#)

[Compositions](#)  
[Achievement Charts](#)  
[Individual Education Plan](#)  
[Four Corners/Vote with Your Feet](#)

### Choosing the right tool and implementing it effectively:

For suggested activities for needs assessment, organized by type, e.g. written or oral, including information on classroom management, what point in the course of instruction the tool would be most effective, calculating the results, and the levels that the tool would be most appropriate see the [Needs Assessment Tools Chart.](#)

For **sample Needs Assessment Lesson Plans**, see Getting Started units of each instructional level. For a **Needs Assessment Bibliography**, see the Resources page of this curriculum.

Other resources: [Needs Assessment for Adult Learners](#) by Kathleen Santopietro and Carol Van Duzer, (has REEP example). Go to [Individual Goal Setting](#) for process and resources for setting individual goals.

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