

Report I
Section 4
Part I

Learner Analysis

Eighth grade students, enrolled in “Exploring Life Skills II” studying Food and Nutrition, are the target population we selected to use in this learner analysis.

Entry Behaviors

We interviewed a group of target students and learned that they are able to add and subtract one digit numbers. Learners are able to discriminate between foods and non-foods.

Prior Knowledge

We administered a survey to eighth grade students and found that all students were enrolled in Exploring Life Skills I in the seventh grade. By reviewing the seventh grade Life Skills I course outline we were able to determine that the students were introduced to the Food Pyramid Guide along with the identification of foods in each food group. Student discriminated between food and non-food items. They identified specific foods for each category on the food pyramid chart.

Attitudes Toward Content and Potential Delivery Systems

After participating in a pre-test and survey designed for students to discover their personal eating habits and basic information surrounding the Food Guide Pyramid, student demonstrated that they are motivated to analyze their own personal behaviors regarding food selection. Eighth grade students typically gain a better understanding of a topic when they are actively involved in their learning. This has been documented through past lessons. We conducted an attitude survey and concluded that students believe that the skills they will learn in this module will benefit them in their future lives by enabling them to make healthy food choices.

Academic Motivation

Individual interviews and surveys were conducted with a target group of students to determine the impact of media on students eating habits. The survey results showed that media directly influences the majority of students. Media influences a teenager’s life by creating images of what the perfect person should look like. This can be seen in the clothing that they wear, the music they listen to, and programs on television they watch. Although students are persuaded to eat unhealthily foods, they still desire to look good. The survey also helped us to see that the influences that impact teenagers directly persuade them to choose an unhealthy eating pattern. However, we also learned in the survey that students are interested in this unit because it allows them to analyze their own eating patterns. Students will learn how to categorize foods in each food group as well as determine how many servings of each food group they should have in one day. We believe, this knowledge will give the students confidence in creating a healthy daily menu. Many of the students participate in sports and want to be at their peak performance during team practices and games. This causes the students to be conscious of their food

intake and the types of foods that help them to perform at their maximum level. Considering all the above factors and because this is an engaging individual activity students are attentive during instruction.

Educational and Ability Levels,

Educational Level - After reviewing cumulative folders we learned that the class is comprised of heterogeneous eighth grade students. There are some academically gifted as well as learning disabled and average students.

Ability Level - Students have been exposed to a variety of teaching strategies. Students are able to complete the task with minimal assistance.

General Learning Preferences

Results from a survey that was given to the students showed that students have been introduced to a variety of learning formats, their preference is to work in pairs. Learners also enjoy hands-on and simulation software and modules. Students enjoy being actively involved.

Learners Attitude Towards the Training Organization

A site visit showed that learners have positive a feeling toward their instructor. Students see the relevance of this course helping them in their future. Students select this class as an elective class. In their interviews they indicate that they would enjoy the proposed topics and methods of instruction in this course.

Group Characteristics

Information was gathered through the use of a survey to identify the make up of the class. Students are heterogeneously mixed for their elective courses. It is anticipated that there will be twenty students enrolled in this class. Student enrolled in this training will come from various neighborhoods and socio-economic levels. Some students have lived in Southeastern North Carolina all their lives while others may have moved from the North and West. It is expected that there is an equal mix of gender. Student's age may range from 13-15 year olds. There are a variety of cultural backgrounds in this class. The overall impression is that the students will be highly motivated when exposed to new learning and have strong interpersonal skills.