

## Purpose and Description of the Pre-CNA Curriculum

The purpose of the course is to teach the vocabulary in order to prepare a person to successfully pass the 75 hour Certified Nurse Aid Course in Iowa. This pre-CNA curriculum was created to be taught by a health or educational professional and is not designed to teach the actual CNA skills for that class. The curriculum is divided into six units that correspond to the CNA curriculum units in Iowa. Each unit is comprised of four lessons. A rubric lists in compact form the activities and handouts for each lesson and gives the instructor an overview of the course at a glance. The following components are part of each lesson:

- **Objectives / CASAS competencies & content standards** - Each lesson is linked to specific nurse aid objectives for that topic and corresponding CASAS competencies and CASAS Content Standards.
- **Lesson Plan Overview** – The lesson plan overview lists the goals for the lesson as well as a listing of handouts and activities for the lesson.
- **Vocabulary List** - Every lesson has a list of vocabulary words that relate to the CNA topic for the lesson.
- **Verb List** - Learning correct verbs is essential to learning a new language whether it be the medical language or English or both.
- **Activities** relate to the specific nurse aide topic. Examples found include public domain information from health Web sites for reading comprehension, crossword puzzles, and word matches for vocabulary reinforcement, and dialogues and role-play for oral practice.
- **Grammar** concepts are part of most lessons and many of the activities incorporate grammar practice with CNA vocabulary acquisition. Any grammar textbook the instructor feels comfortable with could be integrated into this curriculum.

The curriculum developer and designer has a background in adult education and a Master's in Training and Development. She has taught adult literacy classes for over twenty years as well as working as a corporate trainer for Boston Scientific Corporation. Her previous experience working with the NCC Health coordinator to address the literacy needs of nurse aide students provided excellent background needed for this project.