

## Notes To the Instructor:

This pre-CNA curriculum was created so that it could be taught by a health or educational professional. The purpose of the course is to teach the vocabulary (and in some cases improve the English literacy skills) in order to prepare a person to successfully pass the 75 hour Certified Nurse Aid Course in Iowa. It is NOT designed to teach the actual CNA skills for that class. Only a Certified Nurse Aide instructor is qualified to teach the actual CNA skills. A nonmedical instructor, however, can teach the vocabulary associated with those skills.

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. (CASAS is the standard assessment and instructional tool used in the adult literary programs in Iowa's community colleges.)

- **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. Handouts are shown in larger bold font and bulleted for easy identification. They are always labeled with Unit and Lesson for easy reference.

- **Vocabulary List**

Every lesson has a list of vocabulary words and verbs that relate to the CNA topic for the lesson. Learning the words in the list will help students when they take the CNA course because they will be familiar with the words and will then be able to apply their new vocabulary to the nurse aide training. Teachers should use this list extensively for each lesson. By going over each list, they can make sure that students are comfortable with pronunciation and clarify any of the definitions.

- **Verb List**

Learning correct verbs is essential to learning a new language whether it be the medical language or English or both. Students who add new verbs to their language will communicate faster and easier.

- **Activities**

Each lesson will have different activities that 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**

Grammar concepts are part of most lessons and many of the activities incorporate grammar practice with CNA vocabulary acquisition. For purposes of example, suggested lessons from the textbook *Grammar in Use* are included in the rubric for grammar study. However, any grammar textbook the instructor feels comfortable with could be integrated into this curriculum.

Whenever possible, reinforce the lessons with real life examples or nursing tools. Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Demonstrate hand-washing lesson using the soap that shows up under a black light.
- Bring in sample foods for nutritional label activity
- Use a scale to check weight
- Arrange a visit to a medical facility so that students can see first-hand what a certified nursing assistant does at work.
- Demonstrate or arrange for nursing instructor to demonstrate use of blood pressure cuff
- Check local library for health related videotapes that reinforce use of lesson topics and vocabulary