

Teaching Tools for the 21st Century

By Carolyn Coil

Teaching tools for the 21st Century provides good instructional information that helps both the novice and veteran teacher implement good lessons for present day students. Many practical applications are provided that encompass learning styles and learning modalities. The documents provided incorporate varied activities, performances and products that can be used to vary lessons and encourage learning. The questions provided before each section help the individual reading this section evaluate what they are going to teach and how they could better prepare their lessons. A vast amount of information and instructional forms are provided that help format lessons with options that help optimize student learning. The Individual Lesson Plan (ILP™) introduced is explained thoroughly and is formatted so that it is teacher friendly making it easy to use. The ILP™ makes it easy to assemble options for students that can be included in lesson plans for all learning levels.

This book is a good resource tool for teachers at all levels. It is written in such a way that the novice teacher can use it to build good lessons; but it also provides information that helps a veteran teacher reformat lessons taught to optimize student learning. The book does a good job helping teachers change their way of thinking in order to help teach today's children better. All aspects of our current educational programs are integrated into this book with instructions on how to use them to the student's advantage. Technology, performance based activities and lessons focused on multiple intelligences and learning modalities are addressed. Excellent forms are provided to help incorporate all aspects of the learning environment into plans.

This book also includes parents as part of the learning equation. It establishes good communication strategies between the teacher and the parent with excellent resources to establish two way communications. The resources help ensure that the communication between teacher/parent is directed toward learning outcomes that benefit the student. The author also does a good job providing information that can be used by parents to help maximize their child's learning experience. All of the strategies provided are easy to follow and apply. I like the fact that the author has taken the approach that the parents, school, and the classroom teacher are needed to provide true learning in the classroom. Overall a well written book that is a very good resource tool for today's classroom.

Sharon M. Mott