

Secrets of Teaching and Learning

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Federal Research and Support

The U.S. Department of Education's research "labs" and technical assistance resources can be treasure troves of information on teaching using technology with various groups. These kinds of organizations may offer training as well as research; to find the one nearest you, try:

Regional Education Technology Consortia: <http://www.rtec.org>

Regional Education Laboratories: <http://www.relnetwork.org>

Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC) is federally funded information system provides services and products on a broad range of education issues. Although originally designed to support schoolteachers, community educators will find themselves at home here too. Offerings include [practical and theoretical information on teaching and learning](#), such as digests of journal articles, lesson plans, and links to other web sites. There is also a toll free phone number for those without reliable Internet access (1-800-LET-ERIC), and a service called AskERIC, through which you can ask questions and receive answers by e-mail about education topics (send questions to askeric@ericir.syr.edu). (<http://www.accesseric.org>)

Literacy Resources

The National Institute for Literacy on-line information system – LINCS – has a national website and five regional hubs. They contain links to adult education resources in states within each region and also a variety of lesson plans, tips on technology planning, and mini-grant reports. The national LINCS site includes archives of a dozen e-mail lists. One very useful recent publication is Jennifer Cromley's compendium of fact sheets on research, *Learning to Think, Learning to Learn* (NIFL, 2000). You can start at <http://www.nifl.gov> or <http://www.nifl.gov/lincs> for your regional hub.

For a compendium of resources and links developed for and sometimes created by adult learners, see David Rosen's [Literacy List](#). While you're there check out the "Webliography" and E-Square, too, for sample web reviews, Virtual Visits, and other materials. (<http://alri.org/literacylist.html>)

World Education's Literacy Division produces a number of publications for the reflective teacher. Samples are on the web; all can be ordered through World Ed: "The Change Agent," "Focus on Basics," "Adventures in Assessment," and "Field Notes" (formerly "Bright Ideas"). (See <http://www.sabes.org> and relevant links.)

Best Practices Forum for Educators

[The Knowledge Loom](#) is a growing, searchable database where educators can research and share best practices. You can search the extensive database by theme, geographic location, grade level, and setting, and results are broken into categories including practice, success story, or resource. In addition to reviewing research and ideas, you can

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add your own stories and resources, and also participate in online events and discussions. (<http://knowledgeloom.org>)

After-School

The National Institute on Out-of-School Time (NIOST) is located at the Center for Research on Women, Wellesley College. The Institute's mission is to improve school-age childcare programs nationally by collaborating with communities, individuals, and organizations to increase public awareness of the importance of children's out-of-school time. It concentrates on [research, education and training, consultation and program development](#). A great place to go when you're looking to improve your after-school program. (<http://www.wellesley.edu/WCW/CRW/SAC/index.html>)

Want to know the secrets of successful school-based programs? Let NCREL (The North Central Regional Educational Laboratory) introduce you to practical strategies for planning and implementing before-school, summer, and extended-day activities. When it comes to models for school-based programs, one size does not fit all. Each program must individually assess the needs of its students and community members. Download this guide to discover how to build a strong program out of hard work, clear focus, strong leadership, careful needs analysis, and effective decision making. (<http://www.ncrel.org/after/bellkit.htm>)

Developed by the Morino Institute, [YouthLearn](#) provides high quality resource materials on integrating technology into educational programs and projects for youth. In addition, the web site showcases writing, artwork, and video produced by young people, along with corresponding curricula from instructors. An ever-expanding online community, YouthLearn also hosts an electronic mailing list among other forums. (<http://www.youthlearn.org>)

Gateway to K-12 Resources for Students, Parents, and Educators

Lightspan.com provides [K-12 educators free lesson plans, links to resources, and discussion groups](#) to encourage online learning. In addition, kids can check out online learning activities or get help on homework. Features for parents include information on what children are expected to know, based on standards for grade level, and news on technology and other issues affecting children's education. (<http://www.lightspan.com>)

The America Connects Consortium at Education Development Center, Inc.

Many of the resources listed here were adapted from the America Connects Consortium website. For further resources about teaching and learning, including effective approaches, using technology, project based learning, intergenerational programs, media literacy, and community involvement, visit the Resources section of the ACC web site. (<http://www.americconnects.net/resources/default.asp?topicid=20>)