

Section 10: Building Literacy and Essential Skills into Daily Life: Strategy 2: Chunking

Handout 9: Ideas for using the Chunking strategy

- Use colored index cards for different information.
- Use a magnifying glass.
- Using an article on health, identify and underline the words you don't know and use the RAP to ensure comprehension.
- Try different colored overlays to help reduce text noise, words 'falling off'.
- Reading on computer screens interrupts REM sleep – yellow filters help.
- Use sticky notes to block off things that aren't relevant.
- Use smart phone to take picture of chunks of text or words.
- For non-verbal clients: Using the C-train map and yellow overlay, create a key of places they go on their journeys (e.g., Safeway, Tim Hortons), cover part and ask them to point to where they shop, where they like to have coffee.
- Using the tenancy agreement (or other relevant document) and a yellow overlay, underline and highlight words the learner doesn't understand and explain them.
- On the job: Create a small list of key words that prompt their work tasks on a yellow overlay. Learner can keep the overlay and check off the tasks as they are completed (can be erased and reused).
- Find words within words using compound words like strawberry, greyhound, football, housework; mix and match creating funny combinations. Block off part of a compound word to show a word the learner knows.
- Color code recipes for wet and dry ingredients; put steps of recipe on cards.
- Cover part of a paragraph, read the rest of the paragraph, and ask the learner to create a topic sentence (may require learning about topic sentences and paragraph structure prior to activity).
- Take an environmental or color walk using the frame technique with hands or a frame cut out of a recipe card to examine a painting or other piece of art or poster – helps client identify interests and engage in art.
- Try using the television window frame technique to highlight specific parts of text. Use different size television window frames as appropriate to the skills of different learners. Some may be able to read only words, some may be able to read larger pieces of text.
- Using a grocery list, chunk down categories (fruit, dairy, bakery) in the order they are found in the store. Create a visual map of the store with illustrations and pictures and words.

Tips:

- ✓ Repeat relevant information.
- ✓ Ask specific questions.
- ✓ Write down main ideas.
- ✓ Use highlighting, bolding, underlining.