Literacy Awareness Presentation
A Shorter Version
(For those times when you have 30 minutes or less to make a presentation to a group)

Icebreaker
See *Literacy Awareness Presentation* for a number of excellent suggestions. In the interests of time, you might have to leave out the icebreaker but include one if at all possible. It will draw people into your presentation and add a bit of fun at the same time.

Extent of the Problem
In 1994, seven industrialized countries participated in the *International Adult Literacy Survey (IALS).* It was found that over 35% of Ontarians have either serious problems dealing with printed materials or can only deal with simple reading tasks.

What is Literacy? A definition
The ability to understand and employ printed information in daily activities, at home, at work and in the community to achieve one's goals and to develop one's knowledge and potential.   *International Adult Literacy Survey 1994*

Literacy is more than just decoding text. It involves reading, writing, listening, speaking, analysis and problem-solving skills. If you have time use *The Marlup* (page 15 *Literacy Awareness Presentation*). It is an example of how it is possible to decode and answer questions on a text without understanding it.

Literacy is a relative term – it depends on a person's environment
Use your own example or the one on page 7 of *Literacy Awareness Presentation.*

Reasons an adult may have problems with literacy – good brainstorming activity
° Poverty, cycle of low literacy in the family
° Learning disability or ADHD
° Cognitive limitations
° Psychiatric disorder
° Family problems – violence, divorce, frequent moves, more than one language spoken in the family
° "Social promotion" in schools
° Drug or alcohol use

Possible clues that a client has literacy needs – good brainstorming activity
See page 5 of *Literacy Information for Social Agency Staff.*

Should your client go to a literacy or an English as a Second Language program?
See page 19 *Literacy Awareness Presentation.*

Describe literacy services available in your community

Questions and Answers