

Competency Based Education and Content Standards

**Definitions
Components
Characteristics
Integrating Competencies and Content Standards
Mapping Competencies
Resources**

June 2006

Kathleen Santopietro Weddel
Northern Colorado Literacy Resource Center
ncirc@stvrain.k12.co.us

Definitions of Competency Based Education

- ❖ Competency Based Education focuses on outcomes of learning. CBE addresses what the learners are expected to do rather than on what they are expected to learn about. CBE emerged in the United States in the 1970s and refers to an educational movement that advocates defining educational goals in terms of precise measurable descriptions of knowledge, skills, and behaviors students should possess at the end of a course of study.
 - Richards and Rodgers

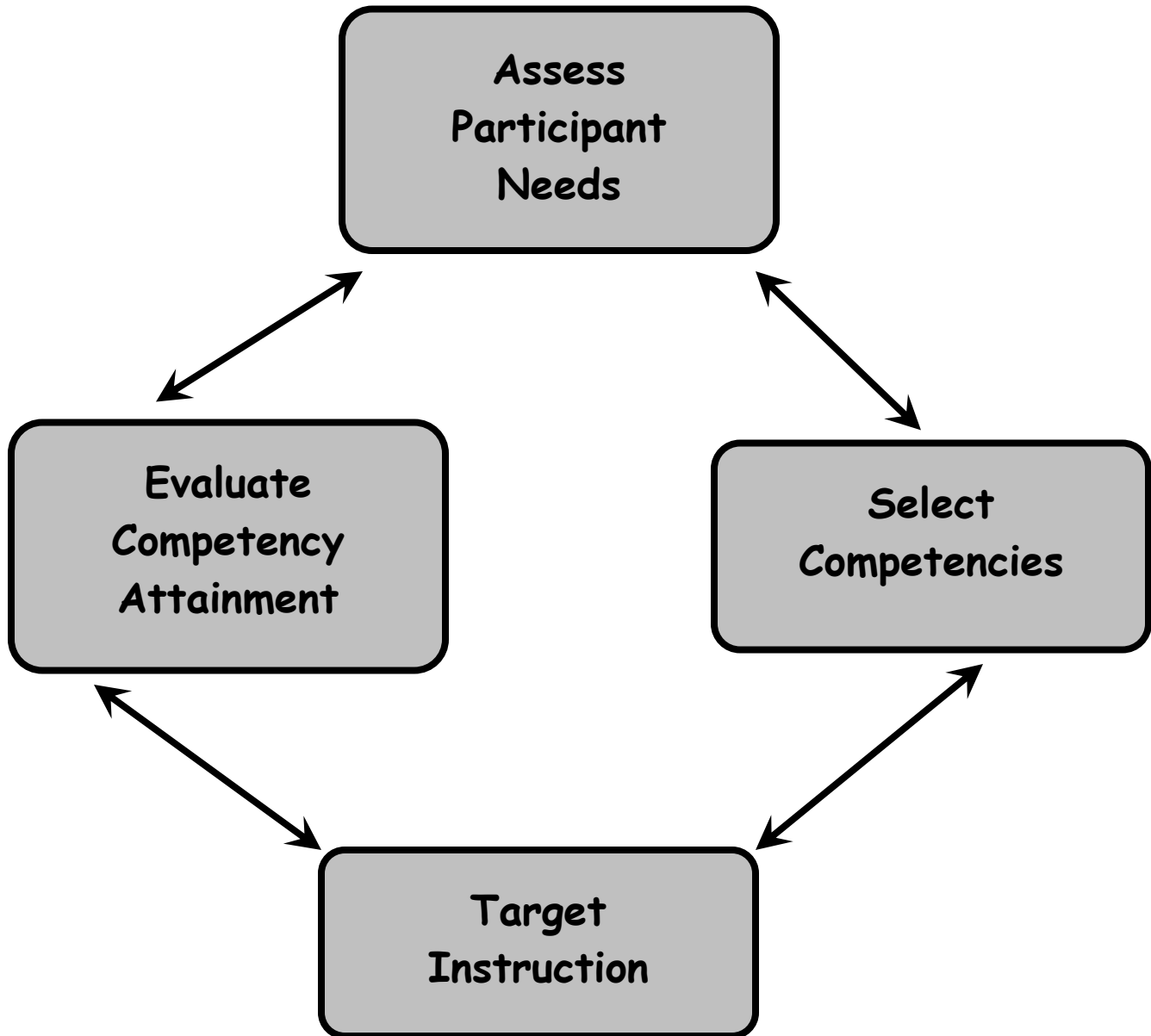
- ❖ Competency Based Education is outcome based instruction and is adaptive to the changing needs of students, teachers, and the community. Competencies describe the student's ability to apply basic and other skills in situations that are commonly encountered in everyday life. Thus CBE is based on a set of outcomes that are derived from an analysis of tasks typically required of students in life role situations.
 - Schenck

- ❖ Competency Based Education is a functional approach to education that emphasizes life skills and evaluates mastery of those skills according to actual learner performance. It was defined by the U.S. Office of Education as a "performance-based process leading to demonstrated mastery of basic and life skills necessary for the individual to function proficiently in society" (U.S. Office of Education, 1978).
 - Savage

- ❖ Competencies consist of a description of the essential skills, knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors required for effective performance of a real-world task or activity. These activities may be related to any domain of life, though have typically been linked to the field of work and to social survival in a new environment.
 - Mrowicki

- ❖ Competencies are essential skills that adults need to be successful members of families, the community, and the workplace.
 - CASAS

Competency Based Education (CBE)



Competency Based Education Programs

1. Specific, measurable competency statements
2. Content based on learner goals (outcomes/competencies)
3. Learner continues in program until demonstrating mastery
4. Use a variety of instructional techniques and group activities
5. Focus on what the learner needs to learn, which is the application of basic skills in a life skills context
6. Use texts, media, and real life materials geared to targeted competencies
7. Provide learners with immediate feedback on assessment performance
8. Pace instruction to learner needs
9. Have learner demonstrate mastery of specified competency statements

Are you implementing Competency Based Education in your program?
If yes, how?

What are the benefits of Competency Based Education for adult learners?

What are some issues or problems surrounding CBE in adult education programs?

Resources

Mrowicki, L. 1986 Project Work English Competency-Based Curriculum. Portland, OR: Northwest Educational Cooperative. Page 144 – *Approaches and Methods in Language Teaching*

Richards, J and Rodgers, T. 2001 *Approaches and Methods in Language Teaching*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press.

Savage, L. 1993 *Literacy Through a Competency-Based Education Approach*, Page 15 --Approaches to Adult ESL Literacy Instruction. Washington DC: Center for Applied Linguistics.

Schneck, E.A. 1978. A Guide to Identifying High School Graduation Competencies. Portland, OR: Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory. Page 141-- *Approaches and Methods in Language Teaching*

Definitions of Content Standards

- ❖ What learners should know and be able to do in order to meet their goals.
-- Equipped for the Future

- ❖ Basic skills and knowledge that learners should have at specific proficiency levels

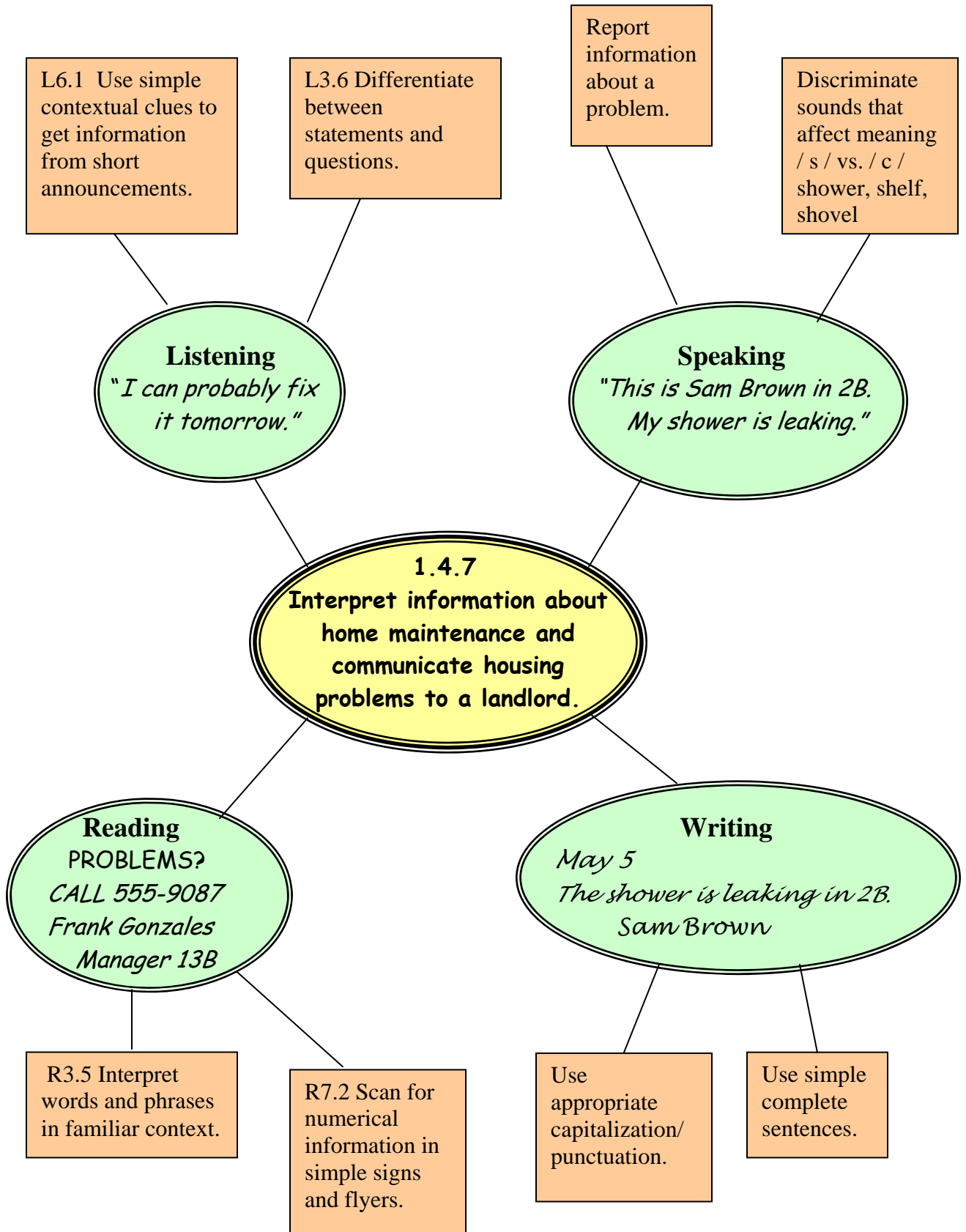
- ❖ Listening, speaking, reading, writing and math basic skills needed to perform life skills

Are you currently integrating content standards in your curriculum?
If yes, how?

What are some issues or concerns you have surrounding the integration of content standards and CBE curriculum?

ESL

Mapping Competency Statements



ABE

Mapping Competency Statements

