

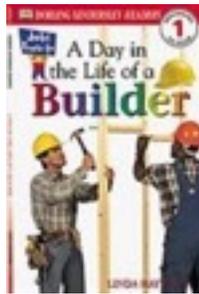
## GOAL in Elementary Schools: Some Simple Strategies

The Guidance Oriented Approach to Learning is an approach designed to support three core tasks for students imbedded in the Quebec Education Program: construction of world-view, for GOAL this includes a special focus on the world of work; construction of identity; and, empowerment of each student's success towards his/her personal and professional goals. GOAL has been active at the secondary level for many years. The current emphasis on school success plans and MELS strategic goals has ignited an interest in GOAL at the elementary level. The following are suggestions for GOAL activities at each elementary cycle level, prepared by Ingrid Hove Gust, SWLSB.

### **Cycle One:**

In keeping with the SWLSB emphasis on early literacy, an easy way for teachers to introduce GOAL into classrooms with young children is through picture books and stories. Below are a few examples of children's books which cover a wide range of careers, beyond the standard police officer or nurse.

- **Dk Readers: A Day in the Life of A.....** a colourful and contemporary series of books about various workers published **Dorling Kindersley**. These leveled readers are non-fiction stories which are designed for beginning and/or reluctant readers. The photo below shows just one example:



- **Whose Hat Is This? Whose Gloves Are These? Whose Shoes Are These? Whose Tools Are These?** All published by Coughlan. This series provides a different look at community workers through lively text and vibrant illustrations. Young readers can explore their communities with predictable text and fun facts.
- **In My Neighbourhood Series** by Kids Can Press. An informative behind-the-scenes look at days in the lives of community workers: fire fighters, police officers, garbage collectors and postal workers.

### **Cycle Two:**

- **The Real Game** is an educational game designed for teachers to use in a classroom setting. It comes with all the elements required to run the "game" including a teacher's guide, overheads and reproducible masters. The approach is cooperative and resembles an LES approach. The Real Game is produced for a variety of grade levels, however, the Grade 3-4 version is a favourite of mine and is called **The Play Real Game**.

**The Play Real Game** is activity-oriented, experiential, exploratory, and fun. To gain a realistic understanding of adult life, education, and work, students embark on a journey into the adult world. In simulation, students take on adult work roles, earn and spend money, choose a home, and create a town-all right in the classroom! Parents, families and communities play a central part in the program. For more information go to:

<http://www.realgame.ca/en/games/TPRG/index.html>

### **Cycle Three:**

GOAL in Cycle Three can take any number of forms: preparing students for a successful transition to high school; making direct links between academic subjects and career requirements; or encouraging parents and students to begin the discussion about the importance of school to future career choices.

#### **Preparing students to transition to high school:**

- Alberta Learning has produced an excellent document designed specifically for Grade 5-6 groups. It can be ordered for a small fee, or downloaded for free:

[http://alis.alberta.ca/pdf/studentsfinance/ps\\_student\\_guide56\\_english.pdf](http://alis.alberta.ca/pdf/studentsfinance/ps_student_guide56_english.pdf)

- Ask the Career Development Consultant to organize a temporary password for your school to the Career Cruising website. Have each student complete the **Learning Styles Assessment** on the website and print out their results. The assessment gives each student a visual and printed explanation of their learning style and provides tips and guidelines about the most effective way to take notes in class, study, and complete homework in a manner compatible with his/her learning style. Ensure that each teacher has a list of the learning styles of each of their students. Ask parents and students to review their individual results together. This is a good first step in developing students' study skills for high school and to support differentiation in the classroom.

#### **Linking School Subjects to Real Life Demands:**

- The Futures Channel is just one example of showing academic skills in action outside of the classroom. The company offers a reasonably priced DVDs which demonstrate the use of math and science in a variety of careers, with math and science lesson plans attached. **In addition, selected short movies can be viewed free of charge, and change weekly, on their website.** The free movie of the week is often accompanied by a free to download situational problem involving math/science concepts with grade level standards and differentiation suggestions included.

<http://www.thefutureschannel.com/>

#### **Organizing a Career Day:**

- Organizing a Career Day at an elementary school is a time consuming task, but also a very valuable one. Parents are often very pleased to share their career path and unique experiences with students. Students are often surprised at the kinds of work their parents do all day long! Two websites which give some straightforward advice about organizing an elementary level career fair are below.

<http://www.nextstepu.com/articlePage1.aspx?artId=3329&categoryId=56>

[http://www.ehow.com/how\\_5457232\\_plan-career-day-middle-schoolers.html](http://www.ehow.com/how_5457232_plan-career-day-middle-schoolers.html)