

Introduction

This book is part of the Start UP! Your Class Cooperative's program to support Early Career Teachers (ECT) which was begun when I was President of the Provincial Intermediate Teachers' Association (PITA). You are not alone. Your colleagues, your principal, your district, PITA and the Start UP! are there to help you. PITA is just one of the groups that want to help you succeed in being the best teacher you can be. This booklet is not intended to replace any of those other people or groups. In fact, we hope that we can help you connect with other people. It's the best way to survive and grow as a professional.

Our purpose is to help you begin your teaching career successfully by providing you with ways to start the first week successfully. Teaching is a complex task, and as you proceed, your colleagues will be able to suggest other ways of doing many of the things listed here.

This booklet is meant to 'present, not prescribe'. There are usually many ways to teach well. Our goal is to show you one of the possible ways to approach the first few weeks of school, and to highlight the main things you need to consider. Then you can adapt the suggestions to suit your style.

The best way to prepare is to link up with other new teachers, for example, through the startyourclass.ca site and as a member of PITA etc. and within your school and district.

When we begin something complex and new we 'don't know what we don't know'. Many early career teachers find themselves overloaded in October and November. Curriculum and resources are the most common sources of overload for ECT.

This booklet and the Start UP! workshops are all designed to help you prepare 'before you need it', so that once you know just what you need, you will already have a foundation and can act quickly to tune your unit planning and lesson preparation.

Sharing and connecting with others is essential, so that if you get an unexpected assignment, you can use the shared resources, such as this booklet, and contact those who have already used them, like me. That's the role of this workshop & the web based resources.

How to Use the lessons in this Booklet:

The book is designed to be carried around and referred to. While the book is written somewhat like a script, it's best to read it carefully so you understand it, but present the lesson in your own way. You may want to create your own checklist or underline the key parts of each lesson. I have used bold lettering or underlining in some of the longer lessons to help you with this.