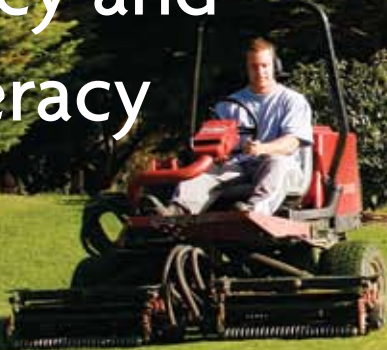


Literacy and Numeracy



“You can already see an improvement in the style of writing they are using in their emails, and confidence in their manner on the job. Hearing them talk about the course, they love it and feel it is the best thing they have done for themselves and to develop their work practise and certainly the best thing the company has done for them.”

Employer feedback following workplace focused literacy support program.

Literacy is the written and oral language people use in their everyday life and work; it includes reading, writing, speaking and listening. Skills in this area are essential for good communication, critical thinking and problem solving in the work force.

Numeracy is the bridge between mathematics and real life. It includes the knowledge and skills needed to apply mathematics to everyday family and financial matters, work and community tasks.

How important is this to us?

40% of the New Zealand workforce has literacy levels below the minimum level required for optimal everyday life and work demands.

If New Zealand is to build a high-skill, high-wage economy, it needs a population with high literacy and numeracy skills. This is why the Government has identified lifting the workforce literacy as a priority in the tertiary sector.

Industry Training Organisations have a key role to play. The NZSTITO is currently embedding literacy into their training – building the literacy skills that trainees need for their work, at the same time as they are learning other technical industry skills.

Support for Employers

Things have changed, less time allowed for each job, greater range of products to work with and new environmental legislation are placing higher literacy demands on staff.



Increasing the literacy and numeracy skills of employees can be expected to result in a number of significant benefits for workplaces and employees, including:

- Improved staff retention and attendance rates.
- Reduction in error rates.
- Higher quality work.
- Improved cooperation and innovation from employees.
- Increased ability to cope with rapidly changing work place demands.

Funding has been allocated to literacy and numeracy specialists who can work with and support employers by designing tailor-made programmes and assessments. These enable employers to identify employee’s current skill levels and build on them to assist in meeting the demands of their job.

To find information about workplace literacy providers and workplace literacy and numeracy funding criteria, visit: <http://www.tec.govt.nz/About-us/News/Updates/Workplace-Literacy-Fund-approved-providers-list/>

Trainee Support

You can talk to the New Zealand Sports Turf Industry Training Organisation (NZSTITO) about getting extra support for an apprentice/trainee.

Literacy Aotearoa offer up to 30 hours support to those trainees assessed as having literacy need. This is great one-on-one tuition with the trainees own assignments. Additional support can also be arranged for trainees at block course.

“Math problems that I would have glossed over before and turned the page, I will now have a crack at.”

Level 4 trainee after receiving support from Literacy Aotearoa

Improving the literacy and numeracy skills of a trainee can make significant benefits to their lives:

- Greater job satisfaction.
- More confidence and self-belief.
- Increased interest in higher level jobs and further study.
- Better job prospects.

“With the support of a reader/writer at block course I was able to strengthen my written communication to better represent my knowledge.”

Level 4 trainee

For further information and advice contact the New Zealand Sports Turf Industry Training Organisation:

PO Box 347
Palmerston North 4440

Phone: 06 355 7020

Email: turftraining@nzstito.org.nz

Photographic imagery kindly supplied by Alice Doig and NZSTI.

Literacy & Numeracy

An informative guide for the Sports Turf Industry



“Developing people to be...
a cut above the rest.”

Acknowledgements:

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- Literacy Training Limited

www.nzstito.org.nz

New Zealand Sports Turf
Industry Training Organisation

