

## **How can we adapt teaching to the needs of the Illiterate and Unschooled?**

Illiterate and unschooled children may be very intelligent or not. The reason they are illiterate and unschooled is usually not that they lack intelligence, but that they have not had the opportunity to attend school for one reason or another.

Remember that it is not just the ability to read, but also the command of vocabulary that may differ. The teacher should speak in simple language and avoid theological terms whenever possible.

Sometimes it works well to put them in a class below their age level. A better answer would be to have a basic literacy class for them so they can learn to read and write. Another solution in large churches is to put these children in a separate class of their own.

The teacher can use teaching methods like skits, oral repetition, singing, and other methods that do not require the children to read. Best of all is a combination of these methods. The illiterate children start out in a special class, and literacy training is a part of their training each week. Gradually they use the skills they are learning until they are on the same level as the others and can enter their regular age level classes.

If pictures are available, the teacher can ask questions and center discussion around the picture. Ask who the characters are, what they are doing, why they are doing it, what they are probably feeling, how the student feels about them.