

Plan: How can I help prepare students and myself for a great day of learning?

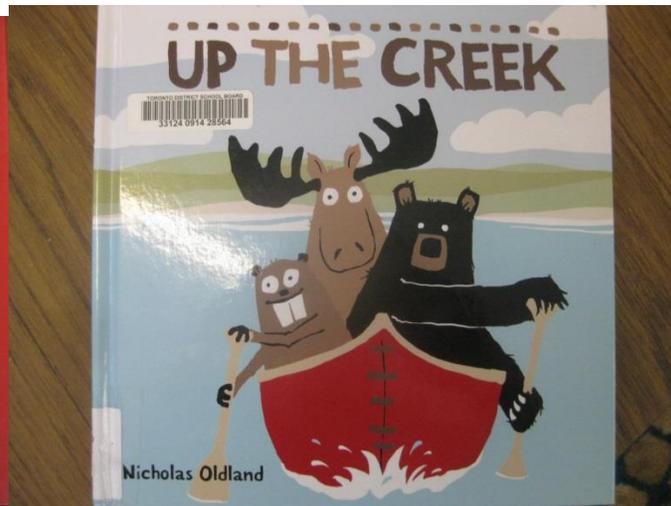
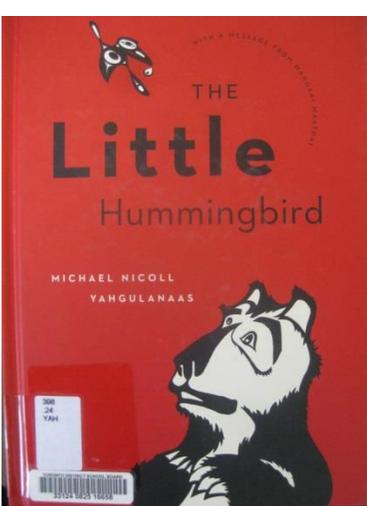
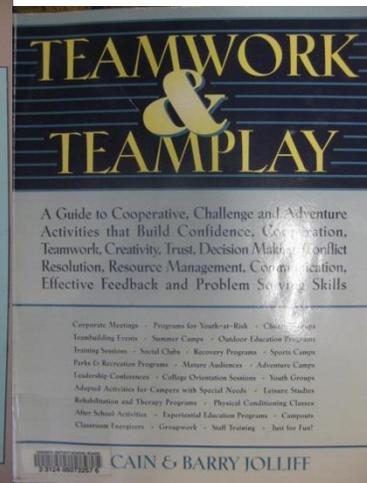
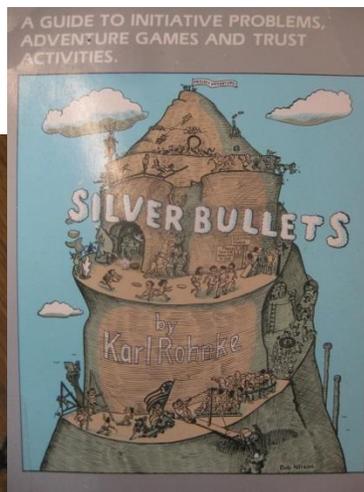
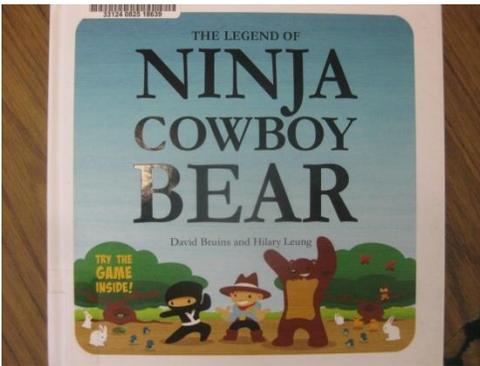
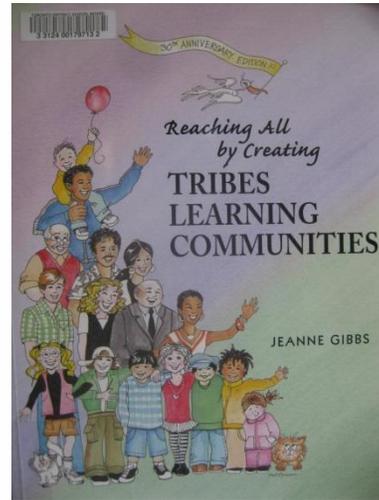
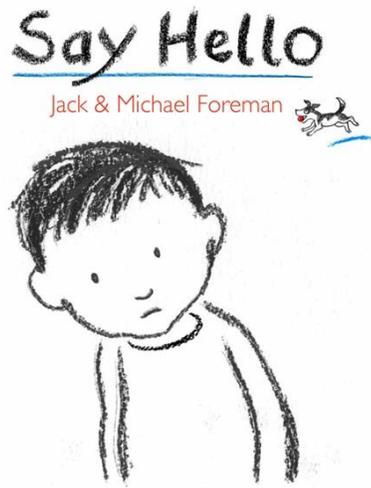
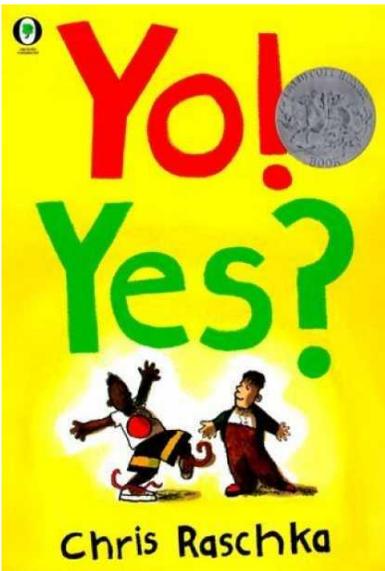
The **Learning Skills Development** program is designed to enrich student understanding of the essential skills outlined in [Growing Success: Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting in Ontario Schools 2010](#) (pp. 10-14) and [Finding Common Ground: Character Education in Ontario Schools K-12](#) through a hands-on, learning experience at Forest Valley Outdoor Education Centre.

Some guiding questions to support effective field trip planning:

- Why did you choose our **Learning Skills Development** Program?
- What is this month's TDSB Character Trait and how can we apply it to the rest of our school work?
- How does it integrate into your classroom program?
 - Is the field trip going to act as a "minds on" engagement where students formulate questions for inquiry?
 - Is the field trip an opportunity for students to gather evidence for an inquiry already in progress?
 - Is the field trip a culminating experience for students to apply their learning?

Pre-Trip Experiences

- **To maximize student success, please consult with your Outdoor Educator before you arrive to determine if the weather and class readiness will allow for the use of the low ropes course elements**
- **If the ropes course will be used please familiarize yourself and your students with our [OPHEA Guidelines](#)**
- **If possible, please prepare students to bring a snack that they can bring on course. The Learning Skills Development program works best when we do not stop for lunch until the end of our day together**
- Familiarize students with cooperative games (e.g., TRIBES, name games, line up games...etc.)
- Practice communication activities (e.g. Back-to-Back drawing: students follow each other's drawing instructions without looking and debrief what worked and how to improve)
- Participate in a TDSB Character Trait assembly, and talk about how it relates to the classroom and wider community
- Begin a Know, Wonder, Learn (KWL) about the TDSB character trait to bring with you to Forest Valley
- Use Google Images to search for "[Low Ropes Course](#)" to give students a visual clue to the kind of challenges they will be facing together at Forest Valley (***Depending on weather and readiness**)
- Brainstorm the types of learning skills that will support success during their day at Forest Valley (e.g. self-awareness, self-monitoring, taking responsibility for personal actions, coping with stress, teamwork, risk-taking, communication etc.)
- Have students assess their learning skills before coming (e.g. What are my strengths? What is my next step?)
- have students write a personal goal statement based on their self-assessment to bring with them to Forest Valley
- Lead students in some yoga balancing poses such as: tree pose, dancer, eagle pose, warrior etc..
- Read books related to character development (available from Forest Valley's Library or Media Net). To borrow books please contact Forest Valley OEC (ForestValleyOutdoorEdCentre@tdsb.on.ca or 416-395-5110)
- Engage students in reflective follow up activities after reading using oral, visual, written and/or dramatic communication



TDSB Web Resources (available through TDSB computers)

- [Media Net](#) (Character Development)
- [TDSB's Virtual Library](#)