Examples of task analysis

Imagine if you had to teach a student how to use a calculator to check their answers to three digit addition problems. First you would have to identify the prerequisite skills necessary for completing the tasks. For example, in this task the student would need fine motor control in order to grasp and activate the calculator, and to press appropriate keys.

Steps in the task analysis:
1. Turn calculator on.
2. Read through the written problem on the sheet, including your own solution.
3. Key in the first number.
4. Press +
5. Key in the next number.
6. Press +
7. Key in the next number.
8. Press =

Compare your total on the written sheet with the total on the calculator display.

Source: Adapted from Foreman (1996, p. 127).

Activities

Complete a task analysis of a complex behaviour you may want to teach one day, for example:
1. riding a bike
2. looking up a train timetable
3. using a catalogue
4. getting onto the Internet.

References