

COMPETENCY #5: Review straight stitch machine and serger for proper use and safety.

CONCEPT: The most valuable of any sewing equipment is the sewing machine. The ability to use it and to care for it properly is a skill required to progress in construction and personal enjoyment.

PREPARATION:

Copy the pages in the operating manual for each machine that cover machine parts, bobbin winding, inserting the bobbin, bringing up the thread, backstitching and others you find necessary. Put the pages in plastic covers and tape or attach somehow to the machine.

NOTE TO TEACHER: If students have been through the TLC CORE program as 6th or 7th graders, they will know the machine basics.

LECTURE/DISCUSSION

The sewing machine is the most important piece of equipment we will use for construction. The machines are complicated, and must be operated properly. We will learn the names of the machine parts and what their functions are. This will help you to keep your machine working properly, that will assure more sewing time instead of "machine fixing" time!

NOTE TO TEACHER: If your school has the TLC CORE manual refer to the textile section on equipment. The pages that are relevant are copied for you in this document.

Explain each part of the machine, have student follow along with you. Emphasize to students that if they take a few serious moments with the machine in the beginning, their sewing time will be used sewing and not fixing their machine. Review machine safety, cleaning, and oiling.

Basic information has been taken from Clothing: Concept and Construction, Prentice Hall, 1990, pages 193-199. Other resources such as machine operation manuals, sewing books, and other textbooks are also possible sources.