

Paris, 14 April 2008

“Building the future through training”

Avenance Enseignement offers its employees skill-building courses in reading, writing and maths

As part of the training programmes offered to employees in connection with their statutory training entitlement provided for by French law, Avenance Enseignement has set up a pilot scheme whereby volunteers in the Greater Paris region can sign up to attend classes aimed at improving their reading, writing and maths skills. The company has a highly pro-active training policy and has realised that some of its courses are not accessible to certain employees as they have real difficulties in these fundamental areas.

Why learn?

People's career paths are full of changes and opportunities and can be significantly shaped by vocational training.

Avenance Enseignement constantly strives to be in tune with the needs of its employees and give each and every one of them a chance to progress. These new training courses are a real opportunity for them to improve their skills and enable them to gain a competitive edge within the business.

Avenance Enseignement – a highly pro-active training policy

Each year, Avenance Enseignement offers training programmes for all of its 6,500 employees that are based on the Elixir Group's strategic objectives, including building customer relations and providing best-in-class services. Around one third of the company's employees attend training courses every year on a variety of topics such as management, business-specific issues, and health and safety.

In order to make these courses more accessible to everyone Avenance Enseignement has launched a specific programme dedicated to perfecting reading, writing and maths skills and ironing out any difficulties which may be preventing employees from getting ahead in their careers.

“We wrote to our 2,100 employees in the Greater Paris region, offering reading, writing and maths classes to volunteers and instead of the 40 or so replies we expected we actually received 111” explains Thierry Colas, Avenance Enseignement's Head of Training in France.

Reading, writing and maths classes – an unexpected success

Out of the 111 applicants, 97 took assessments and the results showed that 31 had considerable literacy problems.

The other applicants were split into 18 groups comprising 3 to 4 members with 6 levels for reading and writing and 2 levels for maths. The groups were also organised based on the participants' working hours and their business or home address.

Ten 3-hour sessions took place between mid-February and mid-April, taught by 11 external trainers from Méthodia as well as 6 co-ordinating trainers and an advisory trainer from Avenance.

Pascale Faujour, Avenance's advisory trainer says *“The employees involved in this project are extremely motivated. They want to be more self-reliant both at home and at work and to be able to carry out everyday activities such as helping their children with schoolwork and performing administrative tasks.”*

Now that these initial sessions have been completed Avenance Enseignement intends to roll out this successful pilot scheme on a national scale.

Avenance and Méthodia have also designed a CD Rom containing 80 grammar and spelling rules that is available for all employees wishing to perfect their writing skills.

The training programmes

Reading and writing		Maths	
Skill-building course 1 Reading words and sentences Subject-verb-object Constructing simple sentences Syntax and punctuation Positive and negative forms Indicative present Understanding simple texts Spelling	Skill-building course 2 Reading simple texts Constructing complex sentences The perfect tense Linkers Literal and figurative expressions Imperative Understanding simple texts Spelling	Skill-building course 1 <i>Fundamentals</i> Counting Addition Sets and groups Use of decimal figures Subtraction	Skill-building course 2 <i>Essential concepts</i> Basic geometric shapes Multiplication Simple division Measuring mass Measuring capacity
Skill-building course 3 Reading averagely difficult texts The future tense The imperfect tense Constructing a paragraph	Skill-building course 4 Reading difficult texts The past historic tense The active and passive voice Conjugation of the verbs to be and to	Skill-building course 3 <i>Towards Autonomy</i> Measuring length Measuring duration Complex multiplication Complex division	Skill-building course 4 <i>Going Further</i> Fractions Areas and perimeters Proportionality Percentages

The subjunctive Vocabulary Understanding averagely difficult texts Spelling	have Sequence of tenses The conditional tense Comprehension Spelling	Multiples and divisors	
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About Avenance Enseignement

The Elior Group subsidiary Avenance Enseignement is the leading contract caterer in the Education sector in France, serving 795,000 meals each day in 4,900 restaurants. Avenance Enseignement's clients are state-run and private schools – including nursery, primary and secondary schools – as well as universities, and its guests are pupils, students and staff. In addition to providing school catering facilities, Avenance Enseignement serves meals in vacation and day-care facilities and for school trips, and also prepares and delivers meals to nurseries and to people in their own homes. Avenance Enseignement draws on the experience and know-how of the Elior Group in terms of purchasing, food safety, culinary techniques and product innovation.

With over 40 years' experience, Avenance Enseignement puts its expert food skills to the service of its clients, offering all of its guests – ranging from the youngest to the eldest – quality food, a balanced diet and nutritional ingredients. Avenance Enseignement aims to make each meal a special time that combines learning with relaxation. In particular, it strives to encourage children to taste new flavours, adopt best food practices, become more self-reliant, and at the same time interact with others.

About Elior

Founded in 1991, Elior ranks third in the European contracted foodservice and related services market, holding leading positions in Contract Catering & Facilities Management, and Concession Catering & Travel Retail. Each day, Elior's 63,000 employees serve 2.8 million guests at some 13,500 restaurants and outlets in 15 countries. Elior is active in the Business & Industry, Education, and Healthcare & Seniors sectors, as well as travel (airports, railway stations and motorways), and leisure & culture (museums and exhibition centres). For further information please visit the Elior website at www.elior.com.

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