



TUTOR IN TOUCH

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RESEARCH-BASED ADULT READING INSTRUCTION

- Workshop on February 25th -

Research-based adult reading instruction seeks to implement teaching strategies which have been found to be effective and successful by scientific research on the teaching of reading.

The *Literacy Volunteers of Ontario County* and *Literacy Volunteers of Rochester* are sponsoring a workshop on *research-based adult reading instruction* which will put the research's relevant results in the context of volunteer tutoring with basic students.

The workshop's first session is scheduled for Saturday, February 25th (10 a.m. - noon) and will provide an overview of the current research on reading instruction for adult learners. The dates for the following sessions are still to be determined.

Topics will include *Alphabetics, Fluency, Vocabulary, and Comprehension*. The material covered in the sessions will give tutors information, ideas and tools they can use for assessing, lesson planning and instruction. Each participant will receive a handbook, reference materials and handouts to take home. There will also be time to explore online resources. The presentations are organized and held by Mary Ellen Darling from the *Literacy Volunteers of Ontario County* and Melissa Woodhams from the *Literacy Volunteers of Rochester*.

The workshop will take place at the LVR office and the number of seats is limited, so please call Mellissa Woodhams today to sign up:

585-473-3030

CALENDAR OF EVENTS @ LVR

FEBRUARY

Saturday, February 11th
Saturday, February 18th
Ask Dr. King!

Saturday, February 18th
Tutor Chat

Monday, February 20th
**Office closed in observance
of Presidents' Day**

Saturday, February 25th
**Research-based Adult
Reading Instruction**

MARCH

Saturday, March 11th
Saturday March 18th
Money, money, money

Thursday, March 30th
**Raffle Celebration
Scrabble Party**

KEEP IN MIND

The **library** at the LVR office
is **open on Saturdays**
9.00 a.m. - noon



TUTOR IN TOUCH

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT LVR?

WORKSHOPS FOR BASIC STUDENTS

Math Class

starting Tuesday, February 21st
6-week-course
6.00 - 8.00 p.m.
LVR Office
249 Highland Avenue

Math Classes are offered on every Tuesday, 6-8 p.m., from February 21st through March 28th. The classes will cover topics such as various procedures for calculating and dealing with mathematical material, but also how to balance a checkbook, how to read a recipe, or how to assess a private budget.

Drop-In Reading Class

every Friday
10.00 a.m. - noon
LVR Office
249 Highland Avenue

The *Drop-In Reading Classes* gives basic literacy students the opportunity to work on their reading skills. These classes are intended for our students who are on the waiting list for a tutor, or for students who seek additional assistance.

With questions regarding these classes, please call Mellissa Woodhams at **585-473-3030**.

TUTORS ONLY

Tutor Chat

Saturday, February 18th
10 a.m. - open end
LVR Office
249 Highland Avenue

An informal gathering of tutors and volunteers of Literacy Volunteers of Rochester hosted by Michelle Bruzee. For additional details contact: Michelle Bruzee (422-9291).



WORKSHOPS FOR ESL STUDENTS

READINESS FOR AMERICA

The *Readiness for America* program offers group sessions for advanced students on various relevant topics for speakers of other languages. The sessions give the students opportunities to speak, understand, read, and write English in informal but guided sessions where the subject matter can be directly related to their daily life in the United States.

The program is open to both students who are already working with a tutor and students who are on the waiting list for tutoring.

The classes take place on a monthly basis with changing topics for each month. Students can call Judy Emerson to sign up for the sessions: 585-473-3030.

Ask Dr. King!

Saturday, February 11th
Saturday, February 18th
10.00 a.m. - noon
LVR Office
249 Highland Avenue

Stefenie King is an ESOL tutor who works with students learning English. She is also a medical doctor. She will teach medical vocabulary, questions to ask the doctor, and medical office routines to ESOL students. She will also discuss questions about the medical system in the United States.

Money, money, money

Saturday, March 11th
Saturday, March 18th
10.00 a.m. - noon
LVR Office
249 Highland Avenue

Gabriel Geiger from Lifespan will answer questions surrounding issues such as American banks, savings accounts, checking accounts, mort-

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TEACHING ADULT LEARNERS

USING AUTHENTIC MATERIAL

LitScape recently published an article on **Using Authentic Materials to Engage Adult Learners** (LitScape Winter 2006, p. 8/9), which is of interest to both ESOL and Basic Literacy tutors: "The *National Center for the Study of Adult Learning and Literacy (NCSALL)* confirms that bringing the lives, needs, and interests of students into the classroom is an integral part of best practice." The long standing experience of many tutors to successfully utilize everyday objects in ESOL or literacy sessions has thus now been confirmed by research. A study conducted by the NCSALL found that students who worked with real-life materials and activities in the classroom showed increased interest in literacy practices outside of school.

The article suggests innovative and creative ideas for engaging students' interest:

A printout of driving directions from mapquest sparked the interest of a hesitant basic literacy and ESL student and had him realize the practical aspect of literacy.

Second-hand garments provide labels which can be used to teach English vocabulary such as *sleeve, collar, and button* along with basic life skills regarding the material of clothing and the meaning of *bleach, line dry, and machine wash*.

Food ads from the local newspaper can help students to create their own shopping list. This activity might help with memorizing vocabulary, practicing math skills and learning how to save money.

Resources for instructors as suggested by *LitScape* include:

www.news-for-you.com - a weekly newspapers for new readers includes a teacher's guide with exercises and teaching tips

www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/lesson/lesson139.shtml - an article titled "Ten great activities: Teaching with the Newspaper" (written by Linda Starr)

www.c-pal.net/build/candi/basic/how.html - click on the title "Creating Authentic Materials and Activities for the Adult Literacy Classroom. A Handbook for Practitioners" (written by E. Jacobson, S. Degener, and V. Purcell-Gates)

For a copy of the complete article *Get Real. Using Authentic Materials to Engage Adult Learners* as published in *LitScape*, please come to the LVR office: The article is posted on the bulletin board.

TIPS FOR TUTORS

FREE ONLINE COURSES for volunteer tutors

The *Verizon Literacy Campus* offers free online courses for both ESOL and literacy volunteer tutors. The *Verizon Literacy Network* is a collaboration of the *National Center for Family Literacy (NCFL)*, *Pro-Literacy Worldwide* and *Verizon*. Although enrollment is required, courses are free of charge. Many courses allow to download forms and activities that can be utilized in tutoring sessions:

www.vluonline.org/course/index.asp

SONG LYRICS in ESOL tutoring
Hands-on-English (Vol. 15, No. 1) recommends the website

www.esl-lounge.com/songstop for finding song lyrics for ESOL.

Some of the songs have worksheets attached and the website also offers great ideas for the use of songs in teaching ESOL.



TUTORING TIPS

offers monthly updates on adult literacy learning

The monthly e-publication *Tutoring Tips* from the *Project Read* of the Provo City Library in Utah allows access to an archive of more than 50 articles on teaching strategies, tactics, and practical information related to adult literacy learning:
www.provo.lib.ut.us/projread/tips.html

Send us your Tips for Tutors!

Want to help other tutors? Share your experiences and ideas with them!

Send your great tutoring ideas to us for inclusion in the next *Tutor in Touch* newsletter. Be sure to include your full name, so we can give you credit for your suggestion. Write to Judy Emerson at jemerson@literacyrochester.org