

Issue

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July 2003

Literacy Volunteers of Rochester

Rochester NY

Tutor
in
Touch

A newsletter edited by Barb Wainright, bwainright@usadatanet.net
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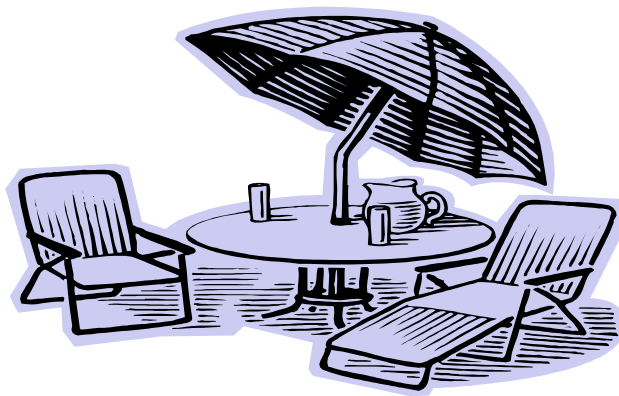
Summer Fun

Summer is upon us. With so many fun things to do outside, it might be hard for your student to focus on lessons. Help your student stay motivated by adding interest to your time together with relevant summer themes. Here are a few ideas to get you started:

- Write language experience stories about favorite summer memories.
- Discuss summer holiday and family reunion traditions.
- Share travel brochures to start conversation about dream vacations.
- Read and discuss newspaper listings for outdoor jobs.
- Use a newspaper weather map to discuss map symbols and summer weather.

Not only can you bring the outside into your lessons, you can also take your lessons outside. Here are some ways to do just that:

- Meet at a convenient park and sit together at a picnic table.
- Visit a garden center for a discussion about plants and gardening tools.
- Attend a youth soccer game and share sports stories.
- Take a field trip to Genesee Valley Park, Irondequoit Bay, or the Barge Canal to spark a language experience story about swimming, fishing, or boating.



ESOL Summer Idioms

Michelle Bruzee, Tutor and Tutor Trainer



As you and your ESOL student are working on summer vocabulary, this might be a good time to discuss idioms that use the same words in different ways. Below are a few examples.

- As the crow flies - the most direct way, along a straight line between two places
It is about six kilometers between here and the cinema, as the crow flies.
- Birds-eye view - a general view from above
Let's go up onto the roof to get a birds-eye view of the surrounding area.
- Chicken out - stop doing something because of fear
He planned to come with us but he chickened out at the last moment.
- Pecking order - the way people are ranked in relation to each other
I have not worked there very long so I don't know the pecking order yet.
- Ants in one's pants - nervous over-activity, restlessness
When the little boy kept squirming in his seat, the teacher asked if he had ants in his pants.
- Bee in one's bonnet - a fixed idea that seems crazy
She has a bee in her bonnet and won't stop talking about taking a vacation.
- Big fish in a small pond - an important person in a small place
The village mayor is a big fish in a small pond.
- Bug-eyed - wide-eyed with surprise
The little boy was bug-eyed when he got a new bicycle as a birthday present.
- Bug in one's ear - a hint, an idea
I put a bug in his ear about how nice a holiday in France would be.

Does this list leave you itching for more? You can find books of idioms in the Literacy Volunteers library in carousel #9.

Help Wanted

Judy Emerson, Program Coordinator



Volunteers like you are what make Literacy Volunteers Rochester such a strong, effective organization. If you are looking for a new way to share your skills, here are some possibilities.

International Student Orientation Fair

The University of Rochester International Services Offices has invited LVR to participate in their International Student Orientation Information Fair Friday August 22, 11:30 to 1:30. We would like a few tutor-student pairs to staff a table and tell international students about how Literacy Volunteers can help them. If you are interested in participating, contact Judy Emerson at 473-3030.

Saturday Morning Interviewer

Most students' first experience with Literacy Volunteers is a meeting with an interviewer. Would you like to be one? We need someone who is available every other Saturday, September through June, to greet each new student, obtain relevant personal information, and administer the appropriate assessment (READ or NYS Placement). If you are interested in performing this important service, contact Mellissa Woodhams at 473-3030.

Outreach Caller

Outreach callers are the smiling voices that provide a link between the Literacy Volunteers office and our established tutors. Would you like to be one? It takes only about four hours a month, nine months of the year. You will make the calls from your own home on your schedule. To learn more, contact Mellissa Woodhams at 473-3030.

Step by Step Tutoring

LVR recently received a grant to work on a program in conjunction with Step by Step, a non-profit organization dedicated to working with incarcerated women. Literacy Volunteers' role is to provide tutoring during Step by Step's weekly workshops at Monroe Correctional Facility and Albion State Correctional Facility.

We hope to provide six tutors in all, three at each facility. (We expect Albion tutors will want to carpool.) Tutors will attend training with Step by Step facilitators to learn about their mission for the women. Step by Step's workshops emphasize the women's strengths rather than their problems. The focus of these theme-based workshops is building self-esteem.

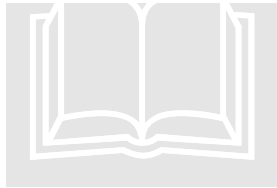
We will tutor women whose reading level prevents them from taking the workshop. Each tutor will work one woman, during the workshop, to help improve her reading and writing. By working with Step by Step we can tutor women in Monroe Correctional Facility. We have not been able to do this before because rooms for tutoring were unavailable.

If you might be interested in tutoring with this program, contact Judy Emerson at 473-3030. You can learn more about Step by Step on their web site, www.stepbysteprochester.com.

From the Library

Virginia Allen, Library Committee

Summer Reading



In summer many of us prefer lighter, perhaps more entertaining, reading. Introduce your student to the delight of summer reading for pleasure. How about a romance, mystery, or sports story? Perhaps your student would prefer science fiction, a collection of short stories, or a biography of a famous person. Whatever genre you choose, the library gives you many options.

Can't make it to the library during office hours? Just call 473-3030. A librarian will help you select materials and leave them for you in the "mailbox" just outside the office door. This library mailbox also allows you to return books after hours.

Inventory

July is inventory time in the library. How can you help? By returning any library materials you are not using. Currently 49 tutors have 116 books checked out. These 116 books have a total value of \$1267, which is a good reminder of just how valuable a resource our library is.

Recent Additions

Recently the library has acquired several items about life skills that are appropriate for both Basic and ESOL students. *Key Vocabulary for a Safe Workplace* teaches tool words and warning sign vocabulary as well as safe work practices. *On the Job English* covers many aspects of workplace culture. *At Work in the USA* also provides readings and exercises to reinforce work-related vocabulary. All three of these books are written at a slightly lower reading level (3.5 to 6.0) than many life skills books. Another recent addition, *Essential Skills for the Workplace*, is a series of four books that cover diverse topics such as using information resources and working with forms and documents.

Tutor Tips

Firth Perryman shares this tutor tip:

Is your student interested in the stock market? Help him or her choose a small portfolio of stocks of familiar companies. Each week, look up the value of those stocks together. Your student might want to keep a record of stock values, or even make a graph of the changes. If your student is interested in improving math skills, invest an imaginary \$100 in each stock. Your student can calculate the value of this portfolio periodically.

Your Tutor Tips



What worked for you? How did you help your student through a recent difficulty? Let us know so we can share your idea with fellow tutors who may benefit from your experience.

Describe your tutor tip in a paragraph or two and send it to the editor, Barb Wainright, bwainright@usadatanet.net. Be sure to include your full name and phone number so we can reach you for clarification if necessary. If you prefer, mail your tutor tip to:

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You can also send comments, suggestions, and topics for future newsletters to either of the above addresses.

Calendar of Events

Saturdays in July and August: LVA-R office closed.

Saturday August 2: Tutor Chat at The Spot coffee shop on East Avenue, 10:00am

Saturday August 30-Monday September 2: LVR office closed for Labor Day

Thursday October 9: Brain Game! Save the date.