

LITERACY LINK

R.E.A.D. ADULT LITERACY PROGRAM

Alpena County George N. Fletcher Public Library

Encouraging Adult ELL Students to Practice

Language learning requires frequent exposure and meaningful practice. Practicing speaking English improves fluency, builds confidence, helps retain new vocabulary, and improves the use of functional communication skills.

To help your learner practice outside of your tutoring sessions, create clear and structured tasks that require only 5-10 minutes to complete and involve real life communication. Follow these steps for implementation:

- Assign 1 task per week.
- Keep the task short and manageable.
- Celebrate their success.
- Model the language before assigning the task.
- Build in accountability.

Low level ELL task example:

Ask one simple question during the week: (Where is the bathroom? How much is this? What time do you close? Your learner reports back: Who did you talk to? Did the person understand? What was the response? Did you understand? How did you feel afterwards?

Higher level ELL task example:

Start a short conversation with someone you don't know well (coworker, neighbor, store employee). Begin with questions such as How long have you worked here? Do you like the neighborhood? What do you recommend? Have your learner report back: How did you feel afterwards? What did you say? Did you understand everything? Was this easy or difficult?

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Recognizing accomplishments is a strong motivation for all learners. You will find assorted achievement certificates in our Tutor Resources

files (at the back wall of the READ office). Feel free to help yourself.

We thank tutor Richard Wehn for his donation of beautiful READ Program achievement certificates.

READ Adult Literacy Program

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*Discover. Connect.
Grow.*

Why do you believe the READ Program is important to our community?

I know that the READ Program offers an array of free and necessary support for people of all ages in the community (i.e., literacy learning, English language learning, GED preparation, citizenship preparation). I hope we can continue to do that for 40 more years! Cheryl V.

It seems to me that offering the ESL students a chance to learn/improve their English in an English-speaking community is very important. Contact with adult tutors seems vital to their success. Gordon S.

It gives opportunity to people outside the k-12 educational system. Gail T.

Every individual who improves their reading and communication skills, is better able to fend for themselves and the people around them. People who once needed help getting through daily/weekly life are now helping friends, co-workers, family members and others with whom they come into contact. Please see Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. Richard W.

I believe the READ program has really helped in making the person I tutor feel more comfortable living in the US. I have learned a lot about her country, traditions, foods, and language.

READ Program is important to our community because good reading comprehension prevents adults from further challenges in life. Sue S.

The READ Program is critical to our community because it helps people achieve their dreams. My learner suffered from just about every imaginable disadvantage virtually from birth, but in middle age wants to turn his life around. His efforts cannot help but inspire. Bruce M.

The READ program helps open up doors to people that were previously closed off to them. Whether it is due to a learning disability, gaps in education, or learning English as a second language, reading difficulties can stand in the way of people achieving their goals. The READ program provides a service, free of charge, to people that may not have the means to acquire these skills elsewhere. Kirstine F.

TEACHING TIP

Hi-lo books are valuable tools for teaching adult literacy. They combine age-appropriate topics with easier reading levels. The READ Program has a new selection of books that connect to learners' everyday lives, such as work, family, health, or personal goals. Relevant topics increase motivation and engagement.

Before reading, tutors can introduce important vocabulary and discuss the book's topic to build background knowledge and confidence. During reading, modeling fluent reading aloud helps learners hear proper pacing and pronunciation. Repeated reading of short passages can improve fluency and comprehension.

Breaking the text into smaller sections prevents learners from feeling overwhelmed. Tutors can ask simple comprehension and discussion questions throughout the reading to encourage participation and critical thinking. Graphic organizers, such as story maps or sequencing charts, also help learners organize information.

Most importantly, tutors should provide consistent encouragement and celebrate progress to help adult learners build confidence and maintain motivation.