

January 2015



Tutor in Touch

Look what's new in the library!!

Math Instructional Materials

As our math tutoring program has grown, so has the need for instructional items. We've increased the materials that can be used for math instruction, including manipulatives such as base 10 blocks, fraction stax, number balance and flash cards. There are teacher's guides available that provide a catalog of activities to teach a variety of math concepts and procedures. There are also workbooks that are correlated to the Common Core Standards. We are always adding new materials to the inventory, so let us know if you need something that isn't in our inventory and we'll do our best to get the material. The math bookshelf is located across from the entrance to the library office.



LVR Book Nook



Another new addition to our library is our Book Nook, which is located to the left as you enter the library space. We started the Book Nook to give materials that are no longer in our active inventory a second chance at use. Materials such as those for the GED are available for as little as 25 cents. All proceeds from the items purchased from the Book Nook go towards the library. Items purchased from the Book Nook are for the purchaser to keep. We also hope to include pleasure reading materials in the future. We accept donations for the Book Nook, but please call our office before dropping off donated items.

Instructional Ideas and resources

Developing Listening Comprehension Skills in ESOL Students

One aspect of learning a new language is the ability to understand that language as it is being spoken, or in other words, listening comprehension. This is one aspect that is measured by the BEST Plus, which is the formal assessment tool we use to measure English conversation skills. The question to ask yourself is “how well does my student understand spoken English?”



As many of you know, one of the more challenging obstacles that our English Language Learners face is the opportunity to hear spoken English, other than with you, their tutor. Finding opportunities to hear English in a structured forum, as opposed to street conversation, helps in the learning process but may be difficult to find. Below are a few links to on-line programs that provide structure and instruction. This is a great way to provide more opportunities for your student to hear English outside of your tutoring sessions. These sites also provide you, the tutor, with some ideas for instruction and practice.

www.usalearns.org

A site for adults to learn English and improve basic reading, writing, speaking and life skills.

<http://literacynet.org/cnnsf/archives.html#cn>

News stories are presented unabridged, abridged, and in outline form. The site includes an instructor page, online comprehension activities and story archives.

<http://iteslj.org/questions/>

Conversation Questions for the ESL/EFL Classroom, a project of The Internet TESL Journal. Hundreds of questions.

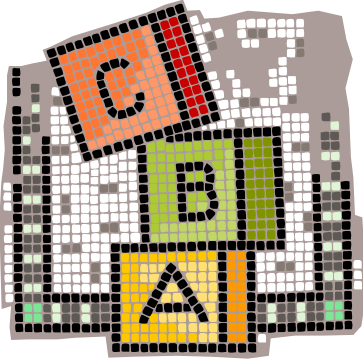
Another technique useful for developing listening comprehension that can be used for more advanced English Language Learners is dictation. Below is a link to a YouTube channel that provides daily lessons using dictation.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0aF5ybbUcxzKgY8TMTerhw>

-Each lesson has a sentence (or two) for dictation, and the following lesson has the answers AND the next dictation.

We also have in our library the publication “Hands On English”. Within each issue there is a dictation activity that is presented at five different levels of difficulty. The easiest level provides 90% of the words from the story, which means the student only has to fill in a small portion of the story. As the levels advance, fewer and fewer words are provided. The most difficult levels require the student to be able to dictate all of the story as it is being read.

The Building Blocks to Reading



It may seem counterintuitive, but many of our native English speaking students do not “hear” the individual sounds in words. The ability to hear the sounds, and the ability to manipulate the sounds, is the basic building block to reading. This skill is known as Phonemic Awareness (PA), or the ability to hear individual sounds in a word. We know from research that a majority of struggling adult readers have underdeveloped PA skills. The inability to hear and identify individual sounds inhibits the ability to spell and decode, also known as sounding out. Without proper assessment and instruction, a student’s progress may be stalled, despite attending sessions regularly.

The skills of PA include; blending, segmenting, deletion, substitution, and identification.

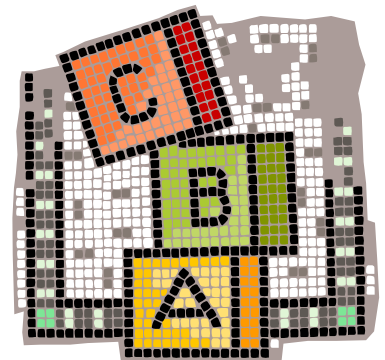
The first step to addressing this issue is to assess your student’s PA skills. The other attachment to this email is a copy of a Phonemic Awareness assessment tool. The first page is the instructions on how to administer the assessment. If you have any questions on how to administer the assessment or how to interpret the results, please feel free to contact me. You can call me at 473-3030 or email me at mwoodhams@literacyrochester.org.

Once you have administered the assessment and have determined what PA skills need to be developed, you can plan appropriately. Below are some YouTube videos that will give you ideas on how to teach these skills. I’ve only listed a few videos but there are many more available on YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=McJldIFlpC8> –a 10 minute presentation in which the terms are defined related to phonemic awareness.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uyWzM9g5C8M>-this video was developed for kindergarteners but the concepts are the same. The presenter makes very clear how to develop skills with activities, which are child centered, but the items used in the activities can be switched for more age appropriate items.

To access these videos, cut and paste the URL in your browser.



Help Needed

Are you looking for a new challenge, or have some extra time and would like to get more involved with LVR? Here's your chance!!

We have a number of volunteer roles that need your time, energy and skills! Below is a list of the positions, and the responsibilities, for which we're currently looking for volunteers.

Outreach Callers: Contact active tutors from list provided to verify information and offer support. Can be done from the comfort of your couch.

"Discover Reading" Facilitator: This class is the mandatory orientation class for our reading students. You would facilitate two, 2 hour sessions, based on a provided curriculum. You set the time and day to hold the class.

Literacy Navigator: Stationed in an area library to provide help with immediate literacy needs.

Workshop Trainer: Conduct tutor training workshops of new tutors. Trainings are delivered in teams so work load is shared. The time and day of the workshop is determined by trainers. We are in desperate need of trainers!!

Social Media Volunteer: Provide support in updating and maintaining our FaceBook

SAVE THE DATE

This year's Winter Conference is on Saturday, March 21, 2015
The conference information and registration forms will be sent in
mid-February

REMINDER:

The normal hours of operation for our library are 9 AM to 4 PM Monday through Friday. An after-hours book return mailbox is located at the north end of the building (the end facing Elmwood Ave).

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www.Facebook.com



Follow us on Twitter at [LiteracyVolunteers@LVofRochester](https://twitter.com/LVofRochester)