

Home Tutor Scheme

Lesson Plan

Topic: LITERACY



everyone's family

Teaching literacy is required by many of our tutors who have students that are illiterate in their own language. This poses many challenges for the student in learning English. You can imagine how lost you would be if you didn't have the ability to read street signs or any kind of information and couldn't use a dictionary. It's understandable that many illiterate students don't have the confidence to leave their home very often.

There are two challenges for tutors of illiterate students – improving speaking and listening skills, and teaching the student to read & write. There are many different opinions on whether it is more beneficial to teach reading or writing first, or focus on speaking and listening skills. This is up to you and your student's needs. We would recommend focusing on improving your students speaking & listening skills to begin with so that they can converse on a basic level, and then reading & writing as a secondary focus. Ideally we would encourage all our illiterate students to attend some sort of classroom based learning to work on their reading and writing skills so that you can focus on speaking & listening skills. Some options for this will be outlined below which you can discuss with your student.

Some ideas to improve your students Speaking, Listening & Writing skills:

Activity 1

Take along a box of materials from around your house to each visit with your student. This could include things like clothing, items from the kitchen, study or bathroom. Make sure the items are relevant to your student. Follow these simple steps with your student:

1. Display the materials and tell them what it is called
2. Ask them to repeat the word
3. If practical, demonstrate what the item is used for
4. Clearly write down the word for your student
5. Demonstrate phonetics and pronunciation of the word
6. Ask your student to repeat the word

If your student can already write the alphabet continue with these steps:

7. Ask your student to copy the word, assisting with each letter if they have difficulty.
8. Once you have gone through each item pick out random items from the box and ask the student to name the item and write down the word.
9. Practice this activity numerous times and again at the end of the lesson to see if your student has remembered the word
10. At each lesson bring back 1 or 2 items from the previous lesson to see if they are retaining the information. If not, lessen the amount of items you bring and repeat the same ones on numerous occasions until the information is retained.

This activity can also extend to items from around the student's home so include a chair, table, window, door etc focusing on common items that are relevant to your student.

Useful Resources:

Face To Face: A Resource For Volunteer Adult Literacy Tutors

<http://siandvasupport.sydneyinstitute.wikispaces.net/Literacy+Face+to+Face>

This resources is focussed towards those that have a small amount of English, however, it is a very useful read for those with students at all levels of literacy.

Making It Real: Teaching Pre-literate Adult Refugee Students

This resource is American but very useful if your student is completely illiterate and you are starting from the beginning. Please contact HTS office if you need a copy. Make sure to read the introduction first – this resource attempts to cover some of the questions posed below.....

“Pre-literate learners may not recognize common pictorial representations that teachers often use to represent objects with literate learners. Pre-literate learners may not have handled books and papers or be familiar with the cultural expectations in the classroom. Where and how do you start teaching these learners? What do you need to teach them? What do they need and want to know?”

The Literacy Workbook

A workbook for absolute beginners of literacy at a slow pace
(Available for loan from HTS office).

The Numeracy Workbook

A workbook for absolute beginners of numeracy at a slow pace
(Available for loan from HTS office).

Coffee Time & Soccer Time

A resource using picture cards and associated vocabulary flash cards with activity sheets. This is a useful resource for beginners once they know the alphabet.
(Available for loan from HTS office).

The Basic Oxford Picture Dictionary

A book of pictures, scenes and stories with corresponding vocabulary.
Very useful for absolute beginners to go through the vocabulary whilst pointing to the pictures & practice pronunciation.

Starters Dialogues

For those who are beginners with some literacy in their own language. The Starters Dialogues covers short exchanges such as greetings, giving personal information, requests, and locations. The dialogues are in English on one side and the student's language on the other. They are available in the following languages:

Chinese	Burmese	Turkish
Japanese	Somali	Vietnamese
Arabic	Croatian	Amharic
Korean	Farsi	Thai
Russian	Tigrinya	Filipino
Bosnian		

Literacy courses available for your student

The Home Tutor Scheme is working in cooperation with AMES & TAFE to assist illiterate students in accessing classroom based education. We have realised the increase in numbers of illiterate students, particularly those on the Home Tutor Scheme, and the challenges this poses for tutors. As you would expect 1-2 hours per

week from a tutor is not sufficient for students to gain any significant progress with their English. This may lead to frustration for both tutors and students.

We would like to encourage supplementary classroom learning (in addition to home tutoring), where possible, so that progress is much faster for the student. We have seen extremely positive results of this in the past.

We would very much appreciate if you could please identify whether your student has the means to attend classes for no more than 6 hours per week at AMES or TAFE (if they would still like to have a home tutor) and pass this information on to the Home Tutor Scheme.

Ultimo TAFE is currently offering Literacy & Numeracy classes for Adults

- Suitable for people who already speak and understand English but have had no, or limited formal education and have trouble with literacy.
 - Teaching writing, spelling, reading, basic maths, and basic computer literacy.
 - Students can enrol anytime throughout the year.
 - Students range in age from 15 – 80.
 - Classes are free for Australian residents.
- Contact: Jill Finch 9217 3732