



Lake County Library System
Adult Literacy Program
2401 Woodlea Road
Tavares, FL 32778
Phone: 352-253-6183
Fax: 352-253-6184
E-mail: egreene@lckelibrary.lib.fl.us

TUTOR TALK

Lake County Library System
Adult Literacy Program

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Tutor Tips

Using a Thesaurus

This exercise can help increase your student's vocabulary while teaching them to use a thesaurus. Choose a descriptive paragraph for the exercise and underline key words. Before the lesson begins, explain what a thesaurus is and then ask the student to read the chosen paragraph. The student then looks up the underlined words in the paragraph and finds synonyms for each and writes those words down as well. The student then re-reads the paragraph, inserting the new words in lieu of the underlined ones. The student can also copy the paragraph with the new words.

A tutor at Second Start notes:

"Reading through the second time there was less hesitation. There were some words he decided not to change because another word would not have made as much sense. After he had rewritten the paragraph, he read it again with almost no

Welcome to the first issue of a brand new publication that is just for YOU, our tireless volunteer tutors!

I get wonderful information from many resources and I thought it was time to share it with you. Hopefully you will find something that is relevant to the goals of your learner, **or** so important as to be worked into your lesson plan, **or** maybe a new approach or technique that will make your lessons that much better!!

Whatever the case may be, give me feedback...let me know if it is helpful, easy to read, and useful!

And don't forget to check out the 'PEER TO PEER' section — this is a great way for you to share hints and ideas with each other. So, send me your ideas and I will add them to the next edition!

Thank you for all you do!

Happy New Year!

hesitation. He really liked doing this and seemed pleased to use the bigger words which are in his vocabulary."

Source:

<http://www.oaklandlibrary.org>

Using a Thesaurus article reprinted from Literacy News, a publication of Florida Literacy Coalition, December 2007. www.floridaliteracy.org

☺ This approach could be used with a dictionary also! Many learners have never used a dictionary so think about including it in a lesson plan too!



Check the Adult New Reader (ANR) collection for a thesaurus and dictionary!

2nd Annual
Tutor Celebration
March 2008
Invitations coming
soon!

Health Literacy

Research & Theory

Over 75 million U.S. adults (36%) have Basic or Below Basic health literacy.

The Health Literacy of America's Adults: Results from the 2003 National Assessment of Adult Literacy. Download from http://nces.ed.gov/naal/health_results.asp

"Unintentional poisoning deaths are the 2nd leading cause of injury death for 35-54 year olds and the 3rd leading cause of injury death for 25-34 year olds."

American Association of Poison Control Centers/AAPCC. Retrieved September 21, 2007, from <http://www.hrsa.gov/poisoncontrol/default.htm>

"...a large percentage of the adult population are potential poisoning victims due to their inability to read and comprehend label instructions."

Mrvos, R., Dean, B.S., & Krenzlok, E.P. (1993). Illiteracy: a contributing factor to poisoning. *Veterinary & Human Toxicology*, 35(5): 466-8.



Health Literacy articles reprinted from *Notebook: Resources for the Adult Educator*, a publication of ProLiteracy America, Fall 2007.

Prevent Poisonings

Purposes

To help students acquire information they need to protect themselves and their families from poisonings in the home. To improve comprehension and speaking skills.

The Basic Activity

Use the activity included. It comes from Lesson 9 of *Health Stories: Readings and Language Activities for Healthy Choices* (Low Beginning) by Ann Gianola (New Readers Press, 2007).

Have students post the national Poison Help number by their phones: 1-800-222-1222.

Teach ESL students how to say the following. The Poison Help staff will connect them to a translator.

I need help. I do not speak English.

I speak [name of language].

My phone number is [insert].

Expansion Activity

Download at no cost the complete version of Lesson 9 with all the activities (plus Teacher's Guide and audio file).

Use product labels to teach the words *Poison, Caution, Warning, Danger*, and *Keep out of the Reach of Children*.

More Information

Poison Prevention Week

March 16-22, 2008, is National Poison Prevention Week. In February, the Home Safety Council (HSC) will provide every ProLiteracy America member organization with a free kit of materials for teaching poison prevention.

ProLiteracy has partnered with HSC for several years to provide critical safety information to adults with limited reading or English-language skills. Download safety materials on smoke alarms, escape planning, and disaster preparedness from www.homesafetyliteracyproject.org.

You can also visit <http://www.homesafetycouncil.org/index.aspx> for additional safety information. They have downloadable and printable materials that are easy to read and also available in Spanish. Talk to your literacy contact for printing assistance.

And don't forget — look in the management system, resources and articles area, as well as in the ANR collection for more great information, links, and materials!!

Peer 2 Peer



Graduation Day

Citrus Ridge
Tutor Training 2007

This section is for YOU!! Make it yours... send me YOUR tips, hints, new-found materials, and great ideas....

In the meantime, check out these websites:

<http://www.everythingsesl.net/> — lesson plans, teaching tips, downloads, discussion topics, classroom resources. Authored by a New Jersey ESL teacher with more than 27 years of experience.

<http://www.eslcafe.com/> — resources for you as a tutor and the adult learner. Links to idioms, tip of the day, phrasal verbs, quizzes, slang, and much more.

<http://www.eslus.com/eslcenter.htm> — this website if for tutors and learners. FREE English—ESL lessons!

<http://www.confusingwords.com/> — a collection of 3210 words that are troublesome to readers and writers.