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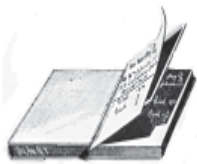
Tutor HelpLine: (800) 322-8715
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Tutor Resource of the Month

Don't forget to sign up for OLI's ESL listserv, *Community Connections* at <https://www.lists.pdx.edu/lists/listinfo/communityconnections>.

Quote Corner:



"I shall pass through this world but once. Any good therefore that I can do or any kindness that I can show to any human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again. . ."
- Mahatma Gandhi

Free book addresses how to teach the pre-literate

Refugees face everyday challenges such as culture shock, navigating a new city and searching for a job. For some, a lack of literacy in their native language also makes it particularly difficult to become literate in English.

To address these challenges, The Training Project, a division of Tacoma Community House, has developed the book *Making it Real: Teaching Pre-literate Adult Refugee Students*. This

108-page book, written by Alysian Croydon, provides a list of survival competencies for speaking, listening, reading and writing; strategies for teaching pre-literate refugees in a multi-level ESL class; and activities that provide students the opportunity to practice and apply these new skills to their lives.

This illustrated book can be downloaded for free at www.tchtrainingproject.com/Resources/materials.htm.

Teacher's Toolbox covers citizenship topics

An online teacher's toolbox is available for tutors working with immigrants. The toolbox, assembled by The Coalition of African, Asian, European and Latino Immigrants of Illinois, covers information pertinent to tutors across America.

Lessons include identifying and contacting elected officials, dealing with the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services, crime, getting legal status, understanding ESL funding, understanding bills, dealing with the police, using the internet in the classroom, domestic violence, voting rights and the citizenship interview.

Each lesson is available through the

Tutor HelpLine or can be downloaded at www.caelii.org/teachers_toolbox.htm.

Upcoming events:

December 10th:

Barnes and Noble's Bookfair

December 20th & 23rd:

Borders Bookstore giftwrapping

Buy books on these days at specific locations to support literacy. Volunteer with OLI by wrapping gifts. For more information, call OLI.

Tips for Teaching ESL Beginners and Pre-literate Adults

Make sure personal connection comes first.

Before teaching any aspect of language, get to know each student individually. Delay the scripted lesson plan and make the class about people getting to know one another. For example, learn not only the students' names, but also the names of their family members. In other words, talk about what matters to the students first.

Use interruptions as teaching moments that trump whatever lesson you planned.

If a student arrives late, use that as an opportunity to allow the class to discuss transportation, numbers or as review on telling time. If a student has a sick baby, use that as an opportunity to discuss medical issues, body parts or terms for various symptoms. The bottom line is to be spontaneous. The students will

remember and learn real-life language as it unfolds naturally, far better than they will recall a pre-planned lesson that is more abstract.

Try to minimize the students' cognitive burden.

When teaching pre-literate students it is best not to write a lot of information on the white board and have students copy it down while you continue to explain concepts. We can easily forget that pre-literate students cannot multi-task with their current language proficiency level and it is important to break down the tasks into smaller components. If students are busy copying down information from the board, they will not focus on what you are telling them because there are just too many things to focus their attention on.

These tutor tips are provided by Holly Andrews, originally published at iteslj.org.

'Parenting for Academic Success,' a new family literacy curriculum

If your organization is looking for a brand new family literacy curriculum, be sure to check out a new curriculum from the National Center for Family Literacy (NCFL), Parenting for Academic Success: A Curriculum for Families Learning English.

ESL learners at the high beginning and intermediate proficiency levels are the target audience of Parenting for Academic Success. The curriculum focuses on three parenting issues: home language and culture, school

and culture, and language and literacy development. NCFL is also planning regional training to augment the implementation of the curriculum.

For questions on the curriculum call NCFL at 502-584-1133 ext. 170, for questions on training, dial ext. 140.

For more information on the curriculum, to download sample pages or brochures, or to purchase the curriculum, visit www.delta-systems.com/parenting.

LitLink: Websites provide writing activities, ESL lesson plans

ESL resource center

www.eslus.com/eslcenter.htm

This website has reading, grammar, writing, listening and pronunciation lessons for more advanced students interested in practicing their ESL skills. A few of the exercises are printable, but most can only be completed online.

PIZZAZ: creative writing lessons

<http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~leslieob/pizzaz.html>

An online resource that provides ideas for different creative writing activities for beginning to advanced students.

There are lessons on how students can create tongue twisters, haikus, chain stories and much more. All handouts are easy to print.

Diversity calendar: holidays around the world

www3.kumc.edu/diversity

A fun website about different holidays celebrated in different countries all over the world. Use it to keep updated on the different holidays from your student's native culture. The website can also be used as a tool in the classroom to teach students about Jewish, Arabic, Mexican and American festivals, as well as many more.