

1001 SW Fifth Avenue
Suite 320
Portland, Oregon 97204
Phone: (503) 244-3898
Fax: (503) 244-9147
info@oregonliteracy.org
www.oregonliteracy.org

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Tutor Resource of the Month

*Helping Your Child
Become a Reader*
offer pointers on
how to build the
language skills of
young children
and is available
in Spanish and
English. Provides
activities for
parents to boost
a child's love of
reading.

Quote Corner:



"The important
thing is not so
much that every
child should be
taught, as that
every child should
be given the wish
to learn."

~ John Lubbock

College and parents' education leads to higher literacy

The National Survey of America's College Students (NSACS) surveyed the English-language abilities of 1,827 U.S. students in their final year of college. The study was released in mid-January.

The average prose, document and quantitative literacy of students was significantly higher than the average literacy of adults in the nation. It made no noticeable difference whether the student was attending a public or private institution or the length of time it takes to earn a degree.

As other studies have suggested, it was found that the literacy level of college students is directly related to

the education of their parents: children whose parents graduated from college or attended graduate school have higher literacy than students whose parents did not.

The study also found that twenty percent of U.S. college students completing 4-year degrees—and 30 percent of students earning 2-year degrees—have only basic quantitative literacy skills, meaning they are unable to estimate if their car has enough gasoline to get to a gas station or calculate the total cost of ordering office supplies.

The complete study is available on the AIR Web site, <http://www.air.org>.

Film adaptations create opportunity to teach literacy

Hollywood's film adaptation of *The Chronicles of Narnia*, the Harry Potter series, and *Charlotte's Web* have increased book sales for these titles worldwide.

This resurging interest in reading for pleasure is exciting news for tutors. A recent study in the UK found that 59% of children think the Harry Potter books have helped them improve their reading skills, and 48% say the Potter

books are the reason they read more.

There are a variety of online educational tools available for instructors who want to capitalize on this reading phenomenon. Walden Media's professional development resources are available at: <http://www.walden.com/web/teach/lww>. Links to material such as crossword puzzles and word-fill exercises for Harry Potter fans can be found at: <http://www.hogwarts.esmartweb.com/activities.htm>.

Parents can get a jump on literacy at home

Family literacy is a crucial step in the development of children's literacy skills. It is never too early to begin developing reading skills as a family. Studies show that children as young as 18 months benefit from being read to and that reading to your child will help them with listening skills, vocabulary and language skills, as well as developing imagination and creativity. Research has also shown that children who are exposed to reading books early will do better at math.

There are many ways families can incorporate literacy skills in daily tasks, such as following a recipe, writing a grocery list, counting change for a purchase, or reading a story to your child.

Some tips for parents to encourage literacy in their family or to share with parents in tutoring session:

- Be a role model for your children by letting them see you read.
- Picture books appeal to infants and toddlers. Talk about the actions in the pictures with your child.
- Have your child read aloud words on billboards, street signs, store fronts, etc.
- Encourage your child to write letters to friends and relatives.
- Get a library membership.
- Research fun and educational websites for your child to navigate.
- Keep your teen reading by subscribing to their favorite magazine.

Keep reading fun and interesting for every member of your family. If you are enthusiastic about reading, chances are your child will be, too.

Family Literacy certificate can be earned online at Penn State

Pennsylvania State University is now offering an online certificate program in family literacy. The 15-credit program was designed to meet the professional development needs of individuals working in a variety of literacy education settings. There are three specialized tracks that students can choose from: children's education, adult literacy and parental involvement. The courses can be used

to satisfy state and national professional education requirements, as well as be used toward a Master's degree, if desired. The courses are online, using Web and print materials, and do not require residence to enroll. For more information, visit their Web site at <http://www.worldcampus.psu.edu/wc/FamilyLiteracyCertificate.shtml>

LitLinks: Find information about family literacy online

The Family Literacy Foundation

www.familit.org

Offering a wide range of activities and information for parents and educators. Includes information on their various programs and how to get involved.

The Buddy Project

www.buddyproject.org

An Indiana-based organization, The Buddy Project, shares a lot of information on their Web site, including how to start Family Literacy Backpacks as a way to encourage intergenerational literacy.

Literacy Directory

www.literacydirectory.org

The search feature helps match potential tutors with local literacy organizations. A service of the National Institute for Literacy. For local information call OLI's Litline 1-800-322-8715

Family Literacy listserv

<http://www.nifl.gov/mailman/listinfo/>

FamilyLiteracy/

Mailing list forum for discussing myriad topics related to adult and early childhood education