

Tutor Communication

October 23, 2014
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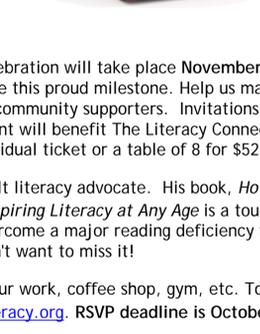
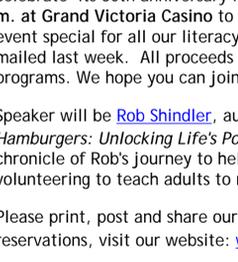
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Greetings!

Greetings from The Literacy Connection! We hope you had a great week. Here's the latest news and events.

Literacy Connection is celebrating 30 Years!

Literacy Connection



The Literacy Connection is excited to celebrate its 30th anniversary in 2014. A celebration will take place **November 8 at 6 p. m.** at **Grand Victoria Casino** to commemorate this proud milestone. Help us make this event special for all our literacy friends and community supporters. Invitations were mailed last week. All proceeds from this event will benefit The Literacy Connection's programs. We hope you can join us! \$75 individual ticket or a table of 8 for \$525.

Speaker will be [Rob Shindler](#), author and adult literacy advocate. His book, *Hot Dogs & Hamburgers: Unlocking Life's Potential by Inspiring Literacy at Any Age* is a touching chronicle of Rob's journey to help his son overcome a major reading deficiency through volunteering to teach adults to read. You don't want to miss it!

Please print, post and share our [flyer](#) with your work, coffee shop, gym, etc. To make reservations, visit our website: www.elginliteracy.org. RSVP deadline is October 29.

Drop-In Group

Citizenship Conversation Group

The Literacy Connection has started a *new* Citizenship Conversation Group for ESL Learners to practice for the citizenship test.

The dates are:

November 6th and 20th in the Conference Room

December 4th and 18th in Community Room C

If you're interested in helping with this drop-in group please contact [Yadira](#).

Citizenship Educator Interest Group

Friday, November 7, 2014

10 am - 12 noon

Michael Bilandic Building

160 North LaSalle Street - Room N-505, Chicago, IL

RSVP No later than Wednesday, November 5 to cgarcia@cntrmail.org.

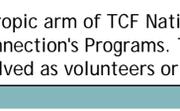
Participants will:

- Recognize the benefits of using citizenship textbooks for classroom or individual instruction
- Identify types and major components of citizenship preparation textbooks
- Identify criteria for evaluating and selecting learner-centered, effective citizenship textbooks
- Please bring a copy of your favorite published materials to the meeting

You must present a valid photo ID and allow extra time to go through security screening.

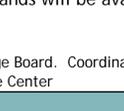
Where do you work?

Many companies offer grants to charitable organizations where their employees or retirees are involved. Two examples are State Farm and TCF Bank. Please let us know if you work for one of these companies, or find out if your employer offers a similar program. The Literacy Connection could benefit! We will be happy to complete the applications or provide documentation. Contact [Karen Oswald](#).



Good Neighbor Grant® Program

Through the Good Neighbor Grant Program, the State Farm Companies Foundation awards a \$500 grant on behalf of each eligible State Farm associate or retiree who volunteers a minimum of 40 hours a year to an eligible nonprofit organization.



TCF Foundation, the philanthropic arm of TCF National Bank, offers grants that could support The Literacy Connection's Programs. They support organizations where TCF employees are involved as volunteers or board members.

2014 ALRC Fall Conference

REGISTRATION OPEN

2014 Northern Region Adult Education Fall Conference

Adult Education: Innovations and Opportunities

Friday, November 21, 2014

Hilton Indian Lakes Resort in Bloomingdale, Illinois

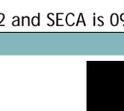
A list of sessions and conference strands and registration materials are available online at www.thecenterweb.org/alrc.

Click on **2014 Fall Conference**. Cost is \$95 and includes lunch.

A list of Sessions and Conference Strands will be available in October. Registration deadline is November 7.

Sponsored by the Illinois Community College Board. Coordinated by the Adult Education Service Center of Northern Illinois/Adult Learning Resource Center

Easy Voter Registration Guide

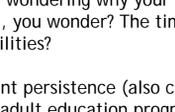
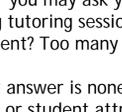


Election season is upon us-the midterm elections are November 4, 2014. To help your learners learn more about how and why to vote, ProLiteracy created this [Easy Voter Registration Guide](#). The *Easy Voter Registration Guide* provides new voters and busy voters with nonpartisan information for the nationwide midterm elections, including:

- How and when to register
- Details about political parties
- What to do after registering to vote

The *Easy Voter Registration Guide* is a great starting point for teaching adult learners the importance of civic engagement.

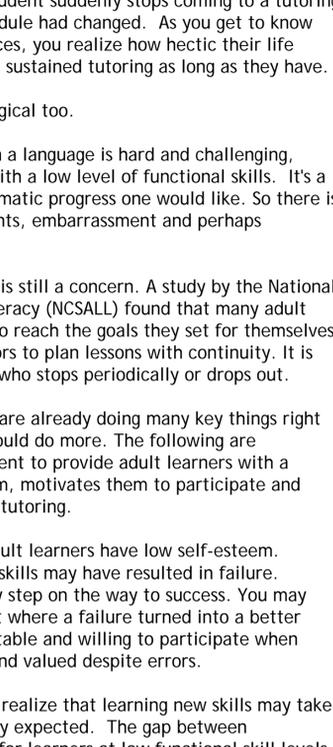
Important Charitable Contribution Information



Federal or Illinois state employees can direct contributions to The Literacy Connection through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) or the State and University Employees Combined Appeal (SECA), which provide employees the opportunity to donate to the charitable causes of their choice through convenient payroll deductions. Most campaigns run September through November.

Our Charity number for CFC is 98122 and SECA is 099-0177.

Tutor Tip



Where did my student go?

As a tutor you may ask yourself that question wondering why your student has stopped attending tutoring sessions regularly. Is it me, you wonder? The time schedule or time commitment? Too many competing responsibilities?

The short answer is none of the above. Student persistence (also called student retention or student attrition) is an issue for adult education programs everywhere. Be assured that it is not you. In fact, our student enrollment numbers are very good, based on the proportion of students who continue to work with their tutors who make progress.

Our students are adults. They have jobs, families, responsibilities. Many are in service jobs, in restaurants, landscaping or housekeeping. They work long hours and have little control over their schedules. Often, when a student suddenly stops coming to a tutoring session, we find out later that their work schedule had changed. As you get to know your student and understand their circumstances, you realize how hectic their life might be and appreciate that your student has sustained tutoring as long as they have.

The challenge isn't just logistical. It's psychological too.

Learning to become proficient and effective in a language is hard and challenging, especially if the student enters the program with a low level of functional skills. It's a long, slow process and one rarely sees the dramatic progress one would like. So there is an element of frustration, and for some students, embarrassment and perhaps discomfort with not feeling in control.

However understandable, student persistence is still a concern. A study by the National Center for the Study of Adult Learning and Literacy (NCSALL) found that many adult students don't stay in a program long enough to reach the goals they set for themselves. Irregular attendance makes it difficult for tutors to plan lessons with continuity. It is difficult to measure the progress of a student who stops periodically or drops out.

From what research shows, it is clear that we are already doing many key things right at The Literacy Connection. But perhaps we could do more. The following are approaches to instruction that go beyond content to provide adult learners with a broader learning experience that engages them, motivates them to participate and encourages their persistence to continue with tutoring.

1) **Help them believe in themselves.** Many adult learners have low self-esteem. Repeated attempts to acquire knowledge and skills may have resulted in failure. Remind your learner that failure is a necessary step on the way to success. You may want to share an experience with your student where a failure turned into a better experience later on. A learner is more comfortable and willing to participate when their attempts to participate are recognized and valued despite errors.

2) **"Sorry, no drive-thru!"** Adult learners soon realize that learning new skills may take a longer period of time than they had originally expected. The gap between expectation and fulfillment is especially wide for learners at low functional skill levels. Reasonable short-term goals, the achievement of which can be demonstrated during tutoring sessions, can give learners the experience of success.

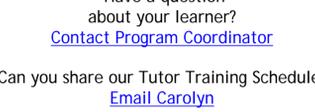
3) **When the gauge reads nearly empty...** Many adult learners come to tutoring directly after many hours in the workplace. Tired students are aided by frequent change of materials used and by active participation. Learning activities which are tactile and/or kinesthetic are stimulating and cognitively engage the learner using different parts of their brain. For example, playing a card game such as Concentration requires your student to not only physically turn over cards, but also use their memory skills, reading skills and pronunciation skills.

4) **"My family comes first."** This is not a barrier to adult learner's persistence; it is a boundary created by many learners' values, a line which will not be crossed. Respect for the learner's priority of family care and a flexible attitude often lead to retention even when there is a temporary break from tutoring. You may communicate directly with your learner to try to bring his/her issues or difficulties to your attention more quickly. Additionally, you may contact [Yadira](#), our bilingual Program Assistant at (847) 742-6565, to reach out to your student. The tutor's sensitivity during these times often results in the student returning to his/her studies more quickly.



A final note . . . This tutor tip has considered approaches to the complex issue of increasing learner persistence. Helping learners persist begins the moment a tutor and student meet. Each student working with a tutor knows that he or she is valued when the tutor encourages every effort, appreciates each individual's definition of success, respects priorities, and provides clear and objective indicators of progress. Building trust and rapport and listening for the deeper meanings of what a learner says are fundamental to finding ways to support persistence.

The Literacy Connection recognizes and celebrates YOUR persistence as a tutor and thanks you for all that you do for your student!



This tutor tip is published courtesy of Literacy DuPage.

Quick Links

[Amazon Smile](#)

Eligible purchases at smile.amazon.com earn The Literacy Connection 0.5% of the purchase price.

[Visit our website](#)

Have a general question?
[Email The Literacy Connection](#)

Have a question about your learner?
[Contact Program Coordinator](#)

Can you share our Tutor Training Schedule?
[Email Carolyn](#)

Share a helpful website or tutoring tip with other tutors!
[Email Tutor Tools](#)

[Visit ProLiteracy Website](#)



Tutor Training Dates

Share Your Love for Tutoring

Tell a friend, family member, neighbor or work colleague about becoming a tutor. We need more good volunteers like you!

Tutor Training Schedule
Training will be held on

*Saturday, November 15 &
Saturday, November 22
9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Gail Borden Library
270 North Grove Ave., Elgin

*The first hour of this session is an orientation.

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Adults Remain On Our Wait List

Sincerely,

