

Program News

Welcome and thanks to those volunteers who completed our most recent tutor training. It was a pleasure getting to know you all and to be able to see you in action. As the matching process progresses, you'll be hearing from your coordinators, Charlotte Ball and Jessica Hilburn. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact them directly. Also please let them know if there are any changes in your contact information or availability.

In other news, we have decided to enhance our ongoing tutor training, by inviting all tutors to participate in one of two quarterly seminars. Please take a look below at the options and register before the end of February to ensure a spot. (12 tutor limit for each seminar)

Please also note that due to sparse attendance, we are no longer offering Tutor Time on the last Thursday of every month. However, we encourage you to come in and visit us or call with questions anytime.

Stay in Touch -

Gina Barrieau-Gonzales, Programs Manager

E.L.L. Tutor Workshop

Strategies for Teaching Grammar

Facilitators: Charlotte Ball

& Gina Barrieau-Gonzales

Location: Our new office at 2205 Elm Street

Date: Monday, April 7th '08

Time: 5:45 - 8:00 pm

For registration and/or questions—please email:

Charlotte: charlotte@whatcomliteracy.org

Gina at gina@whatcomliteracy.org

Or give us a call at 647-3264 ext 102

February

Tutor
Tablet

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Greetings Tutors!

I hope the rain/snow/sleet/wind of the past month hasn't caused you too many problems. Other than a slight electrical problem, we are doing very well in our new offices at 2205 Elm Street. You will soon be receiving an invitation in the mail to our official Open House on Thursday, February 21, from 4pm to 7pm. We would love to see you and give you a tour of our new facility. We will be celebrating our move as well as our 30th Anniversary. In 1978, Whatcom Literacy Council first began helping adults reach their literacy goals. We are proud and honored to continue that work today, and we thank you for making that possible.

Please join us February 21st

Rachel Myers

ALP Tutor Workshop

Working with Adults with Special Needs

Facilitator: Jessica Hilburn

Location: Our new office at 2205 Elm Street

Date: St. Patrick's Day, Monday, March 17th '08

Time: 5:45 - 8:00 pm

For registration and/or questions— please email

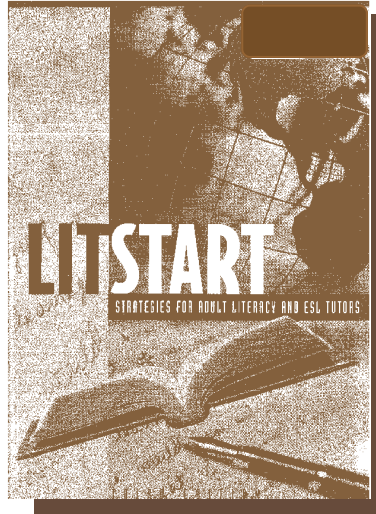
Jessica directly at jessica@whatcomliteracy.org

or call her at 647-3264 ext 104

Check it out!

LitStart is one of the resource books found in Whatcom Literacy Council's library and available for checkout. This instructional guide is designed for tutors of beginning learners and English language learners.

LitStart is divided into nine chapters and an appendix. The first two chapters address the unique needs of the adult learner. It discusses the sensitive nature of teaching a peer. The following pages are filled with strategies for getting started. These strategies consider the diverse backgrounds, goals and abilities for an adult learner. For example, if you are working with a learner who has a learning disability the book recommends making copies of reading material on different colored paper or covering the text with colored transparencies (WLC has a supply of these in its library). Another example is to use books with large print. In the first part of *LitStart* the book's message is clear - - experiment with *many* different strategies to find what works for your individual learner. Waiting tutors will appreciate chapter three, "Your First Session". It gives you an outline of activities that will ease first-time-tutoring jitters. In addition, it gives sample lessons that were designed based on a virtual learner's goals. These are helpful models for creating lesson plans that are student directed.



The topic of lesson planning leads nicely into the following chapter, "Planning Your Tutoring Sessions". *LitStart* walks the reader through three steps: 1) picking a topic of study 2) selecting appropriate materials and 3) choosing effective strategies. The book then uses these steps to create several sample lessons. In addition, each lesson includes a speaking (for ELL) and reading activity, a word study and writing exercise. The book recommends that tutors use all four components as a guideline in planning sessions.

In the following one hundred and some pages the reader will find a gold mine of learning strategies in the area of speaking, reading, spelling/phonics and writings. The strategies vary in degree of ability level. They are straightforward and don't require a lot of prep time or materials. The appendix is also a treasure trove of goodies. It has lists of word families, sight words and spelling rules, to name only a few.

If you are a tutor of a beginning learner or an ELL student, *LitStart* is a resource you should consult for developing meaningful tutoring sessions.

Jessica Hilburn, ALP Coordinator

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