

## **A Favorite Tutoring Technique:** **Language Experience Approach**

*\* Can be used with learners from ALP and ELL*

"The Language Experience Approach (LEA) is an instructional strategy that uses the learners' own words to build listening, speaking, reading, writing, and/or math skills. LEA draws upon students' real-life interests and experiences. In the Language Experience Approach, the teacher asks the student to share an experience and then writes the student's story word for word. Students may enjoy talking about their families, work, hobbies, goals, and interests. LEA can be used to teach students at beginning through advanced educational levels."

-Excerpt from The Language Experience Approach, ProLiteracy Education Network free online course

To access the full course online go to [www.proliteracyednet.org](http://www.proliteracyednet.org) and click on online courses and The Language Experience Approach or click on this link:

<http://www.proliteracyednet.org/articles.asp?mclid=2&cid=24&rid=404>



Tutor Cindy Pfeiffer-Hoyt shares about using Language Experience Approach, "An activity we've started that is giving learners Felipe and Elidia pleasure is that I've been writing down their own stories of childhood. I type them up with correct grammar and tense, but use their own words so that they can practice reading something particularly meaningful for them. They were so pleased to read their stories which we'll be continuing to add to a binder. I also

share verbally some of my own memories of childhood." See below for Felipe and Elidia's stories.

### **Elidia's Story**

I remember when I was 8 years old I started to go to school. My first year was first grade. I felt very happy and excited. My first thought was that I wanted to get all "A"s on my report card. Every day after school my father asked, "How was school today?" The first day I said I learned the letter "A". It was difficult for me. The second day we learned the letter "I". Every day I learned one number and one letter. My first year I learned to write my name, my mother's name, my

father's name and my sisters' names. I went to school for three years. I learned how to read and write. I wore a uniform—it was a navy blue skirt and the blouse was white. My mother gave me a bath every morning. She made braids in my hair.

In my family I was the first one to go to school. I have 3 sisters older than I am. I have one sister who is now 46 years old.

She has children so her children taught her to write her name.

At 11 ½ I began to work picking tomatoes.

### **Felipe's Story**

My uncle Abran loved me and was always nice to me. He often gave me sodas. One day I climbed on top of his donkey, but then I fell off and we thought I'd broken my arm. He and my brother, who was with us, were scared. I was only 5 years old. Uncle Abran and my brother were teenagers. My grandmother scolded them when she found out what had happened.

My mother and my grandma took me to the hospital. The doctor checked my arm and said it was okay, just dislocated. He wrapped a bandage around it. In two or three days I was okay again.

After that accident, though, I was too scared to ride on the donkey and the horse again. I only liked looking at them after that.