

LiteracyLinks

The Newsletter for Volunteer Tutors

Peggy L. Murphy, Editor
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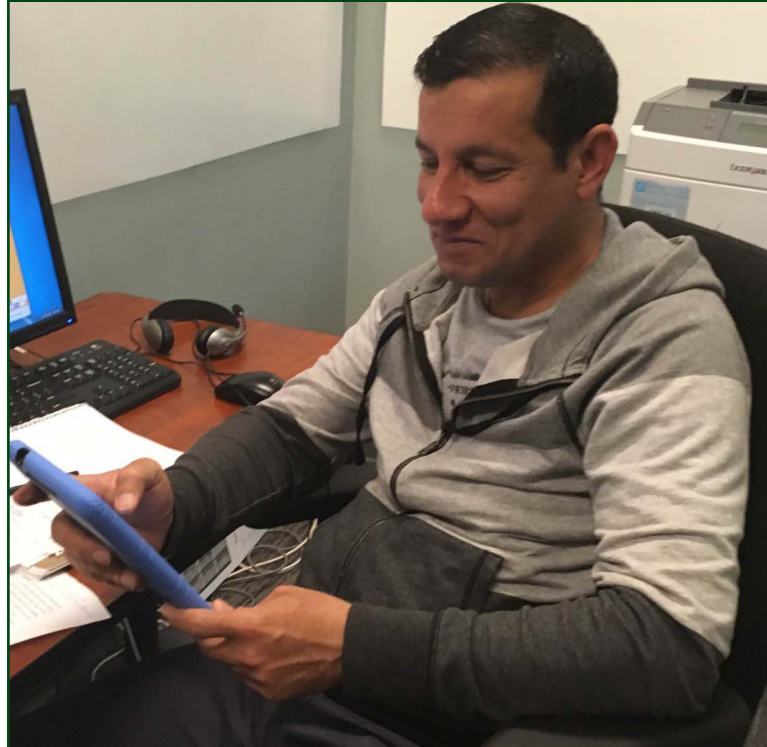
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Using the Tablets of Today



Jawad Thagel using a tablet at Worksource Portland Metro SE tutoring session.

Tablets have come a long way since the early use of stone to record a set of laws in the Code of Hamarabi (1754 BCE.) Case in point: Jawad Thagel, an artist from Iraq, uses a tablet during a session at [Worksource Portland Metro SE](#) (formerly known as SEWorks).

Jawad has been a client at the worksource center for nine months, and knew how to read and write in Arabic and in English before becoming a client.

Portland Literacy Council provided a community grant in 2016 to the worksource center for computer tablets and applications. Learning to use the tablets will improve computer literacy and student comfort using computers. Worksource Portland Metro SE serves over 200 students at the Work Source Center in southeast Portland.

Tutor Toolbox

Emerging Literacy Tools

by Blair Orfall, Volunteer Resources Coordinator,
Worksource Portland Metro SE

I've been working with emerging adult readers with limited literacy in their home languages for about four years now using various materials with mixed results. In my experience it takes an emerging adult reader a long time to learn to read.

I've recently turned to sight words and I've found this system to be effective. Here's an excellent website from which I print sight word flash cards and bingo cards: Sightwords.com.

I supplement these with handwriting sheets of the words that we have learned. This free font allows me to make my own handwriting sheets for students to trace and copy vocabulary. I highly recommend the font Kimberly Geswin available at dafont.com.

Other helpful resources I recommend:

- [ESL Readers](#) Bow Valley College in Canada
- [Making It Real, Teaching Pre-Literate Adult Literacy Students](#) from Tacoma Community House Training Project
- [Low Educated Second Language and Literacy Acquisition](#) (an international forum)
- [A Handbook for Tutors Working With Adult ESOL Literacy Learners](#), Margi Felix-Lund, Portland Community college
- www.manythings.org, Interesting things for ESL students

Editor's Note: *Many thanks to Blair Orfall for her expertise.*

Sightwords.com

Free Resources to Teach Your Child to Read

A Website Review

How much wood would a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood? * For a novice language learner, it's not easy to associate a spoken word with its written form. How could a new learner read the woodchuck sentence without knowing a few sight words?

[Sight Words](#) is a good starting point for learners who must associate spoken and written words. Although targeted to teaching children, many of the techniques can be applied to adult learning. Lesson plans are available on the website.

Tutors will find an excellent overview of sight word development, from the 1930s-40s (Dolch), 1950s and 1980s (Fry), and more modern additions. How helpful are these sight words? The 1,000 Fry sight words encompasses "90 percent of words in a typical book, newspaper, or website. (Sight Words.com)"

In addition to sight words, the website has sections on phonemic awareness and counting. Each section discusses background, techniques, and tools for their use. Games are used as teaching tools to help focus learner interest and engagement in the task. For example, Sight Word Dominoes uses Dolch, Fry, modern and customizable word lists. Instead of matching up the domino pips, players match words.

The SightWords website offers background, techniques, lesson plans, and tips. It will be a valuable addition to your tutor toolbox, and encourage active learning.

* 700 pounds, apparently ([Cornell University](#))

GED Testing Scholarships

Portland Literacy Council offers full or partial [GED testing scholarships](#) to GED-ready applicants. PLC has awarded GED scholarships since 2003.

What is a GED?

The GED is a high school equivalency test credential that is recognized in all 50 U.S. states. The test is owned by Pearson Vue, and tests mathematical reasoning, reasoning through language arts, science, and social studies.

Obtaining a GED indicates knowledge equivalent to high school graduation. It signifies the person is college- or career-ready for the 21st Century.

What does it mean to be GED-ready?

Successful GED tests-takers prepare for GED tests through classes or self-study. They participate in practice tests to gauge their likelihood of passing the exams and to help build their testing confidence.

Applicants must be 18 years or older, not enrolled in high school, meet residency requirements (Multnomah, Washington, and Clackamas), and share test scores with Portland Literacy Council.

Classes are available at community colleges (including online classes). Free resources are also available for self-study.

Why is a GED important?

For many people, a GED can mean getting a higher education or better job. For some, it's an opportunity to complete a basic life goal of having a high school diploma.

Does PLC accept donations to help fund GED scholarships?

We do — you can [donate](#) through our website or by check to Portland Literacy Council, PO Box 2872, Portland, OR 97208.

Calendar

Tutor Training workshops for 2016-17 will be scheduled later in the summer. Please check our website for details.

Opportunities

Multnomah County Library

Several learning opportunities are available during the summer months.

Free Multi-Level English Classes; first-come, first-served, no registration required.

- Midland Library, 805 SE 122nd Ave, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 6 to 7:30 p.m. First-come, first served. No registration required.
- Rockwood Library, 17917 SE Stark St, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 12 to 2 p.m., and 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Multnomah County Library also offers Talk Time and Intercambio opportunities. To check current offerings, please see its website.

Goodwill ESL Classes

English Classes (ESL) and Citizenship instruction are available at Goodwill. The classes are free and are held in Portland, Vancouver, Salem, and other communities in Oregon and Washington.

Questions? See [Goodwill Industries of the Columbia-Willamette](#) for details.

You can help support adult literacy

Portland Literacy Council is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. We support volunteer tutors and students in the Portland Metro area. Portland Literacy Council accepts donations [online](#) and by check to our mailing address, PO Box 2872, Portland, OR 97208.

Portland Literacy Council is enrolled in [AmazonSmile](#) and the [Fred Meyer Community Rewards](#) programs; Sign up at one or both websites, designate Portland Literacy Council as the charity of choice, and your purchases will pay it forward for adult literacy in the metropolitan area.