



What you would need to start a literacy hub at your centre

We are very flexible

The Adult Literacy Rural Trust can work with your organisation in a variety of ways. We know each organisation has different facilities and resources and different challenges.

We encourage you to talk to us about what would work for you so that together we can create a programme that is an ideal fit for your organisation and its community.

Our service is free. We are a grassroots non-profit organisation and apply for funding in order to provide our service.

Here are some things we can contribute:

Training for volunteers

If you have a larger group of learners or you want to have someone local work with them in person, we run a volunteer literacy coach training. We can run a training for you, or your helpers can join in one we are already running.

- A literacy coach is like a parent helper in schools, given training on helping adults with reading, writing and spelling.
- The training involves 5-6 weeks of a self-access course. The person doing the training needs to be confident in using computers and internet.

Ongoing supervision and support for the literacy coaches

Via Skype, Hipchat and with occasional visits to the school we can provide supervision, guidance, and mentoring by an experienced trainer and senior tutor.

Excellent Adult Literacy Practice Materials Online

We have licences for Lexia Reading (the adult version of Core 5) and Reading Plus. As part of our collaborative programme your adult literacy learners can have access to the software. The software helps by:

1. **Lexia Reading (Strategies for Older Students).** Provides instruction and practice in phonological awareness, phonics, structural analysis, vocabulary and comprehension. Automaticity and fluency are also developed. The programme indicates when someone is stuck and provides a lesson plan for the literacy coach, should they need it.
2. **Reading Plus.** Follows on from Lexia Reading and helps development of reading comprehension and reading speed. For adults who have struggled with their reading skills over the course of their life, once they develop reasonable word attack skills they still tend to read very slowly and their eye-tracking of text isn't great. Also they are more in the mindset of word attack (i.e. 'What's this word?') rather than, 'What's this sentence about?'

The results from Reading Plus are pretty good. Most students make a reading comprehension level gain of 2+ years and 100+ words per minute in reading speed after 10 weeks.

A volunteer literacy coach

If you only have one or two people needing adult literacy tuition we can set them up with one of our volunteer literacy coaches. Our coach can meet with them via video-conference for 30 minutes and then the learner can practice on our online software for 30—60 minutes. The coach can view results online.

Here are the things you would need to contribute:

1. The people, the place, the computers and the internet.
2. A designated liaison person.
3. Enrolment forms for each student.

Things to consider:

1. Don't expect huge groups. There is a lot of shame associated with adult literacy. People will come in dribs and drabs. A group of 3-4 is a worthwhile achievement.
2. Where will you run the adult literacy programme?
3. How many helpers can you interest in it? Volunteers? Staff? People who will have the time and interest in adult literacy.
4. When will you run it? After school, at the weekend, at night, during school hours? Most people with low literacy don't have jobs so during school hours work quite well if they can spend some time on computers, still.
5. How long will it be? Even half an hour a day with a coach and half an hour to an hour a day on the software can make a big difference to someone's literacy.
6. How often will it be? Will it be once a week for a longer time or every day for a shorter time? Daily is better. People don't forget things between lessons.
7. How will you structure it? This is likely to change once you get going. Could you have one person doing coaching on a one-to-one basis while the other learners are on the computers with someone helping them when they get stuck? Or do you want to run a small group first and then do practice on computers?
8. Perhaps the coaching will be done at school and the software at home or at the library for some people.
9. Is the adult literacy programme isolated from the children's learning? In some situations it would be possible to teach the parent what the child is currently learning, so they reinforce each other's learning. Or vice versa.
10. When parents have younger children, do you want the parents to visit the children in class and watch how they are learning to read and write? Will this be formally set up or left as a casual arrangement?

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The Adult Literacy Rural Trust, a non-profit organization, making adult literacy tuition easy.

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