July Spotlight: One-to-one help with reading

This month we’ll be looking at benefits and methods of one-to-one help with reading and we’ll be discussing: **What are the difficulties in persuading learners to take up one-to-one help and how can these be overcome?**

Please share your thoughts on the LiteracyActionNet FORUM by clicking [here](#).

**EXAMPLE OF THE MONTH - YOUNG PEOPLE**

Yes We Can Read helps fluent readers teach non-readers to read. Anyone can ‘coach’ a learner in any setting. The scheme does not require the coach to receive training or qualifications, instead they use the Yes We Can Read book to work through fun reading activities with the learner at their own pace.

Click [here](#) for more examples of projects offering one-to-one help with reading.

**INFORMATION**

A successful tactic for working with groups of learners is to support them to work in pairs. However in many classes the most frequent pattern is either whole-class activities or individual work.

Several research programmes have found that for reading skills, learners who spend greater amounts of time working alone do not make as much progress as those working in pairs.

Click [here](#) for more information on using pairs and buddying to improve literacy.

**EXAMPLE OF THE MONTH - ADULTS**

Forest Read Easy Deal (FRED) provides free 1-to-1 reading support for parents, unemployed people, ex-offenders, and older people. FRED matches voluntary reading coaches with people over 18 years who need to improve their literacy. The project recruits, trains, and supports the reading coaches, recruits and teaches the students, matches learners and coaches, provides a safe environment in which to meet, evaluates the learners’ progress and signposts the coaches and learners to progression routes.

Click [here](#) for more examples of projects offering one-to-one help with reading.

**TOP TWEETS**

- LiteracyActionNet Seminar write up: Engaging & motivating parents to improve children’s literacy [bit.ly/11WBemz](#) #familiesforliteracy
- June Spotlight follows on from the seminar ‘Engaging and motivating parents to improve children’s literacy’ [http://bit.ly/1bzN6vE](#)
- Top 10 ways to help your children become more effective readers from @familyeducation [http://bit.ly/10wzRfA](#) #familiesforliteracy
- Tip 5: ‘Strike a balance between perfection and connection’ from @Springboard4 [http://bit.ly/14mvhh8](#) #familiesforliteracy
- 1/2 of mother-and-daughter writing duo Lily Hern explains how to write collaboratively successfully [http://gu.com/p/3ghc4/tw](#) via @guardian
One form of buddying is called ‘reciprocal teaching’ which is an approach in which pairs of learners take turns to be ‘tutor’ and student’. The ‘tutor’ forms questions for the ‘student’ about the text such as asking them to summarise, clarify what they have read or asking them to predict what will happen next. Academic trials have shown this to be a successful approach.

Click here for more information on ‘reciprocal teaching’.

**YOUR EXAMPLE**

Do you know of or are you involved in a project, such as the examples above, that uses one-to-one learning to improve literacy? Please let us know:

- What did the project aim to achieve?
- What activities did the project involve?
- What would you say the project has achieved?
- Has the project been assessed or evaluated?
- Are there any other aspects of the project you would like to tell us about?

Please reply to this email or email amyd@lemosandcrane.co.uk

**MEMBER OF THE MONTH**

Sarah Burkinshaw, Literacy Coordinator, Derbyshire County Council

*What’s the most important thing you’ve learnt?*

‘I can. I will. Knowledge is power.’

*What are your proudest achievements?*

‘Re-inventing and re-inventing approaches to literacy to suit different types of communities. Individual increases in reading competence and confidence.’ [more]

**RESOURCES**

Reading Matters - Reading Matters specialises in one-to-one support to motivate young people to reach their potential by becoming confident and enthusiastic readers.

Toe by Toe reading plan as used by the Shannon Trust. The Shannon Trust helps prisons set up and maintain the Toe by Toe Reading Plan. Prisoners with moderate reading skills use an easy to follow manual to teach prisoners who are illiterate to read. The programme has been set up in nearly all UK prisons.

**COMPETITIONS**

The John Betjeman Poetry Competition for Young People: ‘This new prize is a great way to honour a great poet while simultaneously introducing young people to the thrill of poetry.’ Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy

Poetry opportunities from the Young Poets Network - a list of competitions and magazines which particularly welcome entries from younger writers, writing groups to join, online poetry treasures and information about other great poetry organisations.