

Friday NewsBriefs



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Professional Development Opportunities

OAACE Call for Presenters

April 19-20, 2012
Embassy Suites, Dublin, Ohio
<http://www.oaace.org>
Proposals due by January 18, 2012

The Power of Explicit Instruction Webinar

Join Reading Horizons for this 1 hour webinar on December 8th from 11:00am-12:00pm

“We often hear researchers talk about the importance of explicit instruction. But what does that really mean? “Explicit” refers to anything that is fully and clearly expressed or demonstrated; leaving nothing merely implied. In this presentation, Reading Horizons Teacher Trainer and Dyslexia Specialist, Shantell Berrett, will explain why explicit instruction is key for struggling students, beneficial for every student, and why it should be applied to all teaching to increase your students’ learning.”

To register for this session, please visit <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/790555490>. Space is limited!

NAASLN Webinar Series-Smart Struggling Learners

The NAASLN Webinar Series invites you to attend the December 6 Internet-based seminar: Smart Struggling Learners? What aren't you looking for that may be the real issue? A look at Visual Stress Syndrome and Visual Functions that Impede Learning Success
Presenter: Dr. Laura Weisel

“Of dropouts who have re-enrolled in basic skill, GED, or Transition courses, a staggering 50% have vision challenges and 90% report having symptoms related to Visual Stress Syndrome. If you are not checking for these two key aspects of information processing you won't know why smart struggling learners continue to struggle! Join this session to (1) Understand the critical nature of binocular vision; (2) View and discuss a brain with

Visual Stress Syndrome trying to respond to a reading selection: and (3) Understand the issues with print, font selection, large print, and low vision. Take part in on-line screenings, view screening options, and discuss interventions.”

Alternative Delivery Trainings

Just a quick reminder: The NERC and RCN offer a number of alternative delivery training options that you can request at any time and complete in the comfort of your own home! Our resource theme for this newsletter is transitions, so we will point out a couple of great alternative deliveries that deal with transitions, but there are trainings on several topics available, including Math, Assessment, Special Needs, and Instructional Strategies. Register for any training listed and the necessary materials will be sent to you with a postage paid envelope to return them.

Transitions Alternative Delivery Offerings:

- College Knowledge
- From GEDs to College Degrees
- Teaching Basic Skills in the Workplace

So get comfy, slip on those bunny slippers, and head to the calendar of events at www.ohioable.org to get started on professional development you can do at home!

News and Updates

The Change Agent Now Available in Audio Format

<http://www.nelrc.org/changeagent/audio/index.htm>

Select articles from the last three issues of *The Change Agent* are now available online in audio.

Students can read text while they hear it read out loud - a practice that researchers say improves pronunciation and reading fluency. Students simply click on the play button to hear the article read out loud, sentence by sentence. They can replay sections as often as they want. The articles are engaging and relevant, and many are written by adult learners. The reading level for each article is listed on the audio index page. Information about using audio in the classroom for reading instruction is also available.

Free copies of *the Change Agent* are available through the NERC. To request one, please visit www.neable.org/resources/bodega/bodega-reading/#4

World Education Online Professional Development Courses

Are you looking for convenient, inspiring professional development? Register today for an online course from ProfessionalStudiesAE.org. These facilitated courses give you the benefit of working with a cohort of colleagues and an experienced facilitator while allowing you the flexibility to complete the weekly assignments around your own schedule. Classes fill up quickly so register today!

- [Helping Students Stay: Exploring Program and Classroom Persistence Strategies \(February 21-April 9\)](#)
- [College Readiness for Adults: Beyond Academic Preparation \(February 9-March 8\)](#)
- [Integrating Career Awareness into the ABE and ESOL Classroom \(January 25-March 8 or March 7-April 19\)](#)
- [Introduction to College Transition Math \(February 27-April 23\)](#)
- [Differentiated Instruction \(March 13-May 7\)](#)
- [Number Sense: Teaching About Parts and Wholes \(January 9-February 20\)](#)
- [Geometry: Teaching About Shapes and Measures \(March 19-April 30\)](#)
- [Principles of Diagnostic Reading Assessment and Teaching in Adult Reading Instruction \(March 19-May 7\)](#)

For more details on these and other courses visit www.professionalstudiesae.org.

Matt's Tech Tip

Mobile Learning/Mlearning in Adult Education

While smart phones and tablets immediately spring to mind, some teachers are leveraging even the most basic cell phones to improve students' language skills using text messaging or services like Voki or Google Voice for listening and speaking activities. When you have a few minutes, take a look at this video from OTAN demonstrating some of the ways ESOL teachers are using cell phones with their students (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6JbN16oL3Ho&feature=player_embedded).

If your students have cell phones and you are looking for ways to extend learning opportunities outside of the classroom, these two sites will give you some ideas for getting started:

<http://mlearninginadulthood.wikispaces.com/>

<http://timac.wikispaces.com/Cell+Phones+in+the+Classroom>

The Resource Room-Spotlight on Transition Resources

Bodega Resources

The NCTN Transition Toolkit

From NCTN:

The College Transition Toolkit is a comprehensive guide to program planning and implementation that draws on the expertise of practitioners from the New England ABE-to-College Transition Project and around the country.

“Citizenship foundation skills and knowledge clusters help link what students learn on their own or in the adult education classroom with the knowledge and skills they will need to be successful during the naturalization interview and test.”

Integrating Career Awareness into the ABE and ESOL Classroom

Created by the National College Transition Network, this ready to use, flexible curriculum prepares adult educators to incorporate career awareness and planning into their instructional and counseling activities. The lessons and handouts can be adapted for a range of student skill levels.

This curriculum is available online at www.collegetransition.org. Hard copies or CD-Rom versions of the curriculum may also be requested through the Bodega.

Student Success Handbook

This handbook contains strategies and tips for developing effective study habits

To request these and other free transitions resources, please visit our Bodega at <http://www.neable.org/resources/bodega/bodega-transitions/>

Remember that all Bodega items are provided at no cost and are yours to keep!

Library Resources

- *Career Ready: Locating Information* (Steck-Vaughn, 2011)
- *Career Ready: Reading for Information* (Steck-Vaughn, 2011)
- *Career Ready: Business Writing* (Steck-Vaughn, 2011)
- *Starting Out! The Complete Re-Entry Handbook* (McGraw Hill, 2011)
- *Starting Out! In the Workplace* (McGraw Hill, 2011)

- *WorkSkills: Math* (Steck-Vaughn, 2012)
- *WorkSkills: Situational Judgment and Active Listening* (Steck-Vaughn, 2012)
- *Future: Transitions to Work* (Pearson, 2011)
 - Food Service (Beginner and Intermediate)
 - Healthcare (Beginner and Intermediate)
 - Hospitality (Beginner and Intermediate)
 - Manufacturing (Beginner and Intermediate)
 - Technology (Beginner and Intermediate)

To request any of these resources, please visit www.ohioablelibrary.org.

Web Resources

Eureka Workforce Development Lesson Plans

<http://literacy.kent.edu/eureka/lessonplans>

Workforce development describes a wide range of activities, policies and programs employed by ABLE practitioners with the goal of building sustainable economic stability for their students. Many teachers have been creating lessons that focus on getting their students ready for the workplace. This winter, Eureka's Lesson Plan of the Month would like to spotlight several of these workforce development lessons. Each month, teachers can download and use the following lessons in their classrooms:

January-Math on the Job: Students will investigate occupations to discover the math required on the job. The students will study this math content and complete a job-specific workplace problem. They will write an evaluation essay explaining the importance math plays in their occupation of choice.

February-Effective Resume, Cover, and Follow-Up Letters: Students will produce and publish polished resume, cover letter and follow-up letter.

March-Reading Help Wanted Ads (ESOL): Students will read classified ads in order to find an appropriate job.

April: What Does Your Future Hold?: Students will choose a topic to research that relates to their career path and write a paper on that career

Transitions Repository

http://mercury.educ.kent.edu/database/uso/resources_all_bytopic.cfm

The ABLÉ Transitions Repository is an index of resources related to assisting ABLÉ students in the transition from ABLÉ to post-secondary education and jobs. Resources include relevant research, lesson plans, classroom materials, curricula, and books. Many of the resources listed are available either online or through the RCN library, so check it out!

Thoughts on Persistence

From the Mini Book on Retention Strategies in *The Retention Toolkit*.

Assessment should include evaluation of soft skills, like problem solving, communication, and personal qualities.

For programs using a workplace literacy module, include role plays for on the job problems to include: dealing with a difficult employee, dealing with a difficult supervisor, being part of a team, and learning to complete written documents such as time cards, evaluations, and memos.