

ADULT LITERACY

Newsletter



San Mateo
County
Libraries

PLEASE HELP US PROMOTE UPCOMING TUTOR ORIENTATION AND TRAINING SESSIONS FOR NEW VOLUNTEERS

Saturday January 27, 2018 East Palo Alto Library

Sunday February 4, 2018 Ted Adcock Center
Half Moon Bay

Details:

smcl.org/literacy/

AdultLiteracy@smcl.org

650-323-0362

THE VALUE OF PAUSES

The Adult Literacy world is starting to receive more attention, which means research is testing long held practices in the field. Among the many findings there is the power of pausing or "thinking time".

Think of when you were in college and were taking a challenging class. Remember wishing your professor went slower in the lectures or paused more so you could get what they were explaining? Do you recall having to pause often as you studied the class material, wrote your papers, or talked about the concepts learned? Do you remember having a tired brain from thinking too hard?

Please keep that in mind as you approach tutoring your learner(s). For most of them the work with you feels as that

challenging class felt for you. Add to that everything else your learners juggle on a daily basis.

Research--and we proudly add our tutor training manual--suggests the following:

Listen, understand and accept what your learner(s) have to say.

Try to build in some "thinking time".

Try to allow learners to practice figuring out things for themselves.

Learners should speak more than the tutor during a lesson.

Tutors should ask questions and wait for answers.

As tutors listen to their learners, they learn about interests, goals, and reasons for wanting to improve literacy skills.

This helps tutors plan future sessions.

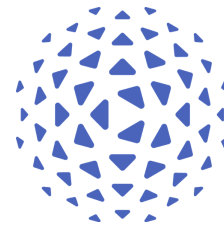


*Our thoughts turn
gratefully to those who have
contributed
to the life changing work of
adult literacy--YOU!*

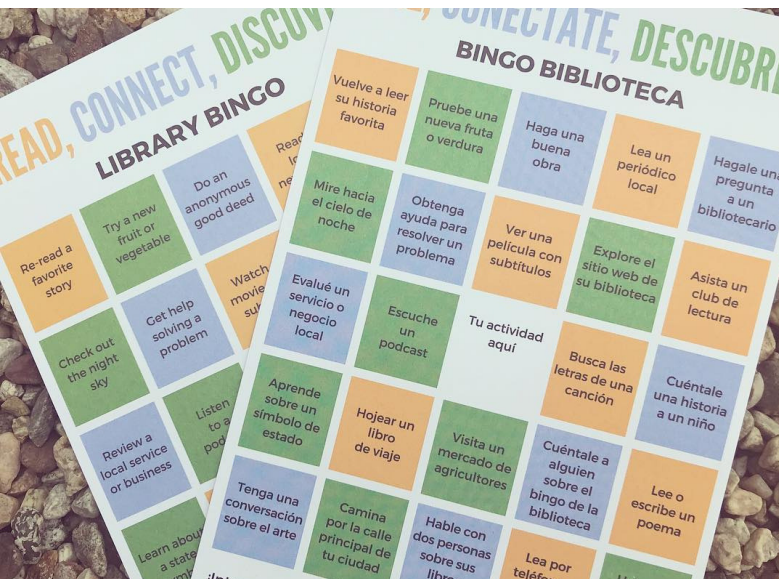
*We wish that the
Peace and Joy
of the Holiday Season
be with you and your loved
ones throughout
the coming year.*

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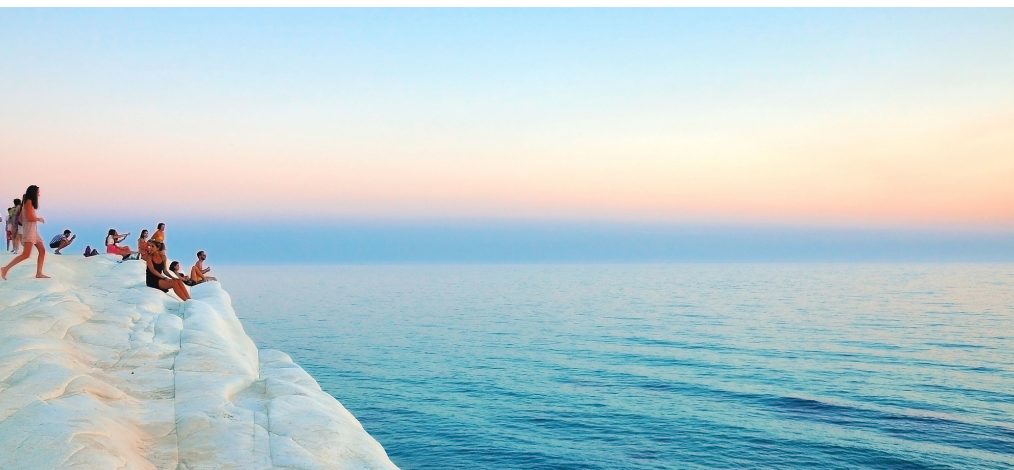
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FUN ACTIVITY SUGGESTION

Use this year's library bingo (focused on Adult Literacy!) to meet some of the goals your learner(s) have. **Orange** squares are Reading activities, **Blue** squares are Connecting activities, **Green** squares are Discovering activities.

Cards available starting January 3rd at Half Moon Bay and East Palo Alto libraries. Bubble head books, notebooks, and more available as prizes.



AS OF DECEMBER 2017 OUR LITERACY FAMILY HAS:

- 35 active tutors in Half Moon Bay
- 19 active tutors in East Palo Alto
- 42 active learners in Half Moon Bay
- 20 active learners in East Palo Alto
- 3 tutors waiting to be matched or re-matched in Half Moon Bay
- 3 tutors waiting to be matched or re-matched in East Palo Alto.
- **15 learners waiting to be matched or re-matched in Half Moon Bay**
- **40 learners waiting to be matched or re-matched in East Palo Alto**
- Help us reduce the waiting list!
- Please consider taking an additional learner.
- Please promote our next tutor training.

AN INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGE FROM A PAST TUTOR

I tutored for about 4 + yrs. I had the same person all that time. She has worked very hard. We have become fast friends and my husband and I are friends with her family. We have even met her parents from Mexico as well as other relatives in CA. She has gone from being very shy and not confident speaking English to now owning her own business and is beginning college classes toward a degree and license in her chosen field.

I decided to tutor to make a contribution to someone's life in a positive way. I hope I have and continue to be there for her. Actually, knowing my learner has totally enriched my life!! I feel so fortunate. I have learned as much or maybe more than she has in this relationship. I am deeply grateful for this experience.

I thank this program in Adult Literacy. You are making such a wonderful difference in peoples lives.