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CIAESC Connection

CIAESC is part of the Illinois Service Center Network



A publication of the

Central Illinois Adult Education Service Center

College of Education and Human Services
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Macomb, IL 61455-1390

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Supplementary Articles for Classroom Use

LD/ESL Assessments - NetNews

Statistically speaking, it is likely that a small percentage of ESL adults have an undiagnosed learning disability (LD). Since January of 2004 and continuing through the present, Learning Disabilities Association (LDA) of Minnesota has completed 25 "LD/ESL" assessments for non-native English speaking adults attending Adult Basic Education (ABE) or post-secondary settings. The purpose of this newsletter is to share the LD/ESL referral profile, several case histories, challenges, and outcomes.

JOBSTART What Works Clearinghouse Intervention Report

"JOBSTART" is an alternative education and training program designed to improve the economic prospects of young, disadvantaged high school dropouts by increasing educational attainment and developing occupational skills. The program has four main components: (1) basic academic skills instruction with a focus on GED (General Educational Development) preparation; (2) occupational skills training; (3) training-related support services (such as transportation assistance and childcare); and (4) job placement assistance. Participants receive at least 200 hours of basic education and 500 hours of occupational training.

ESL Test-Wiseness and Test-Taking Strategies

Test-wiseness strategies are not necessarily determined by proficiency in the language being assessed, but rather may be dependent on the respondent's knowledge of how to take tests. Test-taking strategies, in contrast, consist of language use strategies when they are used to help produce response to language testing tasks. The purpose of this article is to bring out the importance of test-wiseness and test-taking strategies to EFL/ESL teachers, teacher trainers, and curriculum designers.

Implementing Family Literacy Programs for Linguistically and Culturally Diverse Population: Key Elements to Consider

This article examines specific key elements considered essential in the effective implementation of family literacy programs. Insights from the authors' experiences with implementing family English literacy programs for over 20 years in the South Florida area include the role of needs assessments, recruitment and retention, curricular design and curricular materials, personnel selection and staff development, and interagency collaboration. Given the current emphasis on these types of programs, it is imperative that issues of implementation be addressed in order to maximize the success of these initiatives.

Please email GK-Henderson@wiu.edu if you would like a copy of these articles.

Web Spotlight

Life Lessons Essay Contest:

What Was the Most Important Day of Your Life?

www.realsimple.com

Enter an essay on your most important day ever in the Real Simple essay contest and have it published plus win a prize of \$3,000! Click on "The Day That Changed Your Life" link at the bottom of the page for more details.

Horizon WIMBA Staff Development Events

Civil War Picture Book Box

Wednesday, July 2, 2008, 1 pm - 2 pm

The Civil War (1861-1865) was an epic period in the American experience. Was the war really about slavery? Should Lincoln have let the Southern states go their own way? When did the war start? Could we have another civil war in the United States? Are other countries currently engaged in civil war? How has the war affected our lives today? Search for the answers to these questions and more with the Picture Book Box of the Civil War. Find out what is in the Box and how you can borrow it free of charge.

Red States, Blue States, Platforms, Debates - What's It All About?

Wednesday, July 9, 2008, 1 pm - 2 pm

2008 is a year of decisions. As American citizens, it is both a right and a privilege to vote for those people who will represent us. But, how do we make such important decisions? In this WIMBA we will discuss who is running and how to decide who will best represent your ideals. These are activities that can be used in the classroom to inform students and help them develop critical thinking and decision-making skills.

More Visual Math

Thursday, July 10, 2008, 3 pm - 4 pm

Math is patterns and patterns are all around us. Take your digital camera (or, if you are brave, get your students to do it) and find patterns in the worlds inside and outside of the classroom. This WIMBA will show examples and share math inside the pictures and patterns.

Quick Writes

Wednesday, July 16, 2008, 1 pm - 2 pm

Getting students to write is the first and often most challenging step in teaching students to write. Students think they have nothing to say. They are wrong! Inspired by Linda Reif's book, *Quickwrites*, offers many opportunities to prepare for writing and then to write for 2-3 minutes. Preparing to write is the key! When given a format and an example, having something to say is much more doable. **Things to Bring: pen and paper. You will be writing!**

Putting Culture in Its Place

Thursday, July 17, 2008, 2 pm - 3 pm

Most teachers of ESL to adults would say that culture is a necessary component of learning to communicate and succeed in a new language and society, yet relatively few textbooks pay much attention to the values, expectations, and behaviors that learners need to understand. This session will suggest painless ways to incorporate cultural awareness into existing ESL lessons and activities at all levels.

Geometry

Wednesday, July 23, 2008, 1 pm - 2 pm

Geometry is a math skill that is easy to sell to students. Finding examples of how geometry will be used after the GED test is usually pretty easy. Examples like carpeting a room, fencing the back yard, or building a deck are just a few of the ways geometry skills will carry over into life. In this workshop you will get worksheets and tips on teaching geometry to your students.

Working with Words about Math

Wednesday, July 30, 2008, 1 pm - 2 pm

Putting words to math can make math more accessible to struggling students. Learn about fraction hunts, math writing prompts, and math journals. Bring your pencil and work with words about math.

There are no registration fees for any of these workshops. One WIMBA Walkthrough must be taken before attending online sessions. A complete list of Walkthrough sessions and on-line registration can be found at www.thecenterweb.org/alrc/wimba.html

CIAESC Resource Library Picks

CIAESC maintains a lending resource library of professional and classroom materials (books, videos, audiotapes, disk software and CD-ROMs) and makes the resources available at no cost to all adult education program staff in the Illinois Service Center Network service region. To check out materials listed below or to customize your search for additional resources, please go to our web site, www.cait.org/ciaesc and click on the Resource Library graphic. To find one of the titles listed below, type the title in the search form title field and begin search. Directions to conduct your own search and to check out materials via the online shopping cart are provided. Patrons are encouraged to utilize the online system. If you do not have access to the Internet, please call (800) 572-9033 to arrange for check out.

Activating the Desire to Learn

We are all driven to fulfill five central needs: to connect, to be competent, to make choices, to have fun, and to be safe. Studies show that when these needs are met in schools, good behavior and high achievement tend naturally to ensue. The author shows how to apply lessons from the research on motivation in the classroom. (2007)

About Teaching: 4MAT in the Classroom

About Teaching challenges educators to abandon the view of learning as disseminating information and to embrace a wider view of the teaching and learning process. It encourages educators to consider not only what students learn, but how and why they learn. (2000)

Second Language Teaching & Learning

Second Language Teaching and Learning is a practical guide to the methodology of task-based language instruction. The resource, authored by the foremost authority on the concept and practical application of task-based language instruction, provides comprehensive coverage of the topics typically addressed in methodology courses: language, the learner, the learning process, and classroom teaching. (1999)

The Main Stream

Roy Blount Jr., "America's foremost humorist" according to The Chicago Tribune takes an offbeat journey down the Mississippi River. Navigating this great liquid divide, Blount explores what holds this wildly diverse country together. The film celebrates diversity, eccentricity, and freedom of expression as it introduces a cast of unforgettable characters along the Mississippi - the literal main stream of America. Perhaps if this was produced today, it would also include references to the unforgettable devastation caused by the Flood of 2008? (2002)

Why Don't They Learn English?

This book examines the often cited but poorly supported claims that immigrants fail to learn English, and the mistaken belief that immigrant communities cling to their heritage languages. It shows how these current assumptions have a pervasive influence on language policy in the United States. This unique volume offers a short, readable introduction to these issues suitable for nonspecialists as well as educators, researchers, and other professionals. (2001)