

CRASH—Comprehensive Reading and Strategies Help

This web-based training was designed to provide adult education teachers (who may have had no previous training in teaching reading) with information and resources to help students become better readers. For teachers to be effective in helping students achieve their learning goals, it is important to know about the nature of the adult learner as well as strategies to enhance reading skills.

By the end of the course, participants will know about

- the adult learner and brain-compatible classrooms,
- the essentials of reading,
- adult learners and comprehension strategies,
- helping ESOL students and students with learning disabilities,
- and helping the adult student who is a parent to help a child.

Week 1: Introduction

Participant will keep a resource folder with assignments and templates to be downloaded for future use, along with activities to be completed online. The participant will be introduced to all topics covered in the course, and can download a check sheet to keep track of completed assignments. (See attached.)

Week 2: Essentials of Reading

Take a look at some of the current research and what science has taught us about reading, the five basic components of reading—phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, and how teaching reading to adults differs from teaching children.

Week 3: Adult Learners and Comprehension Strategies

Adults need opportunities to build fluency, increase vocabulary, and strengthen comprehension; this section includes activities for use in these areas.

Week 4: ESOL Students

Here is information about acquiring language, the differences between first language acquisition and second language acquisition, and a “Dear Abby” lesson plan from the extensive Florida ABE Resource Guide.

Week 5: Learning Disabilities and “Misunderstood Minds”

Consider the scope of the problem among adult education students; get connected with vast resources available through “Bridges to Practice.” Consider two critical strategies—providing explicit instruction, and activating prior knowledge.

Week 6: Helping the Adult to Help the Child

Parent-students can help their children become successful readers while strengthening their own reading skills. Participants will be introduced to the process of acquiring reading skills, and tips for assisting younger and older children. Major sources cited include works from the Florida Center for Reading Research @ Florida State University; the Florida Online Reading Professional Development Project @ the University of Central Florida, ASCD publication, www.floridatechnet.org and ABE Florida.