



Tutor Connection

Winter 2016 Edition

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Tri-County Literacy Council is a community-based, non-profit organization that enriches both community and individuals by addressing literacy needs

“Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts.”

Winston Churchill

Ensuring Success

In a world with fast food and instant communication, it may be easy to forget that success often involves time, commitment, and hard work. Our funder, the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, expects students to devote a minimum of **10 hours** each week to literacy. The “10 hours” was chosen by the Ministry, as this was seen as the amount of time necessary for students to make progress. For example, if a student and tutor met 4 hours each week, it would be expected that the student work 6 hours independently each week.

It is easy to come up with excuses, but with some brainstorming, various strategies can be developed for students to meet this expectation. Following are some tips you may want to share with your student in how to meet this commitment:

- ✓ **Look at your daily time management.** It may mean getting up earlier in the morning, or turning off the TV. Recently, my niece and her husband disconnected their cable and Internet connection

and are amazed at the time they now have to do the things that are important to them.

- ✓ **Develop a routine.** Setting aside the same time each day to work on literacy, may work for some students. Which time is best for you – morning, afternoon, or evening?
- ✓ **Avoid distractions.** Distractions can get us sidetracked. Set yourself up for success. Choose a time when the house is quiet, or go to a public library that is conducive to studying.
- ✓ **Surround yourself with positive people that believe in your goals.** Have family members and/or friends on board with your goals, so when you are discouraged they will provide you the encouragement to keep going. Family members can also help you carve out more time in your day, by

“Action is the foundational key to success.

Pablo Picasso

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www.tricountyliteracycouncil.ca

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taking over some daily tasks such as making supper, doing the laundry, etc. If you don't have supportive people, try to develop new friends that will support you.

- ✓ **Be persistent.** Don't let failure get you down. Failure is a part of life and how we learn. All successful people have experienced failure. If you are becoming frustrated, talk to your tutor or the staff at the Literacy Council. Maybe the work is too hard, or you just need it explained again.
- ✓ **When you encounter problems, ask for help.**
- ✓ **Choose literacy activities that you enjoy and will help you in daily tasks.** For example, if you are working with fractions, make a recipe that requires measuring, read a story to your child, use flyers to do comparison shopping when making your grocery list. You will be amazed at how much you can save! Play scrabble and learn new words. The list of how to

use literacy in our daily lives is endless. Brainstorm ideas with your tutor.

- ✓ **Don't make excuses.** Excuses can be a coping strategy that can sabotage you from reaching your goals.
- ✓ **Visual yourself having achieved your goal.** Olympic athletes use this technique.
- ✓ **Celebrate your successes.** Reward yourself in small ways throughout the learning process.

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