



Tutor Connection

Fall 2020 Edition

By Carol Anne Maloney, Coordinator of Volunteers

Tri-County Literacy Council is a community-based, non-profit organization that enriches both community and individuals by specializing in literacy instruction based on Essential Skills training.

“Resilience is based on compassion for our self, as well as compassion for others.”

Sharon Salzberg

Uncertain Times

We went on March Break, the world changed. We could not predict how Covid-19/Coronavirus would affect our lives and the anxieties it would bring. Several months have passed and the pandemic remains with us. The question now is “Where do we go from here?”

When reflecting on this question, I think that the solutions can be varied. Some tutors and students may be comfortable in meeting in person with physical distancing and masks. Others may want to use technology. Some may want to email assignments. Students could research and write on a specific topic of interest. Others may want to do a virtual meeting using Zoom or video chat using Facebook Messenger. Both of these video conferencing platforms provide free, full-featured, untimed services for a two-person meeting. Others may be comfortable using the phone. You could participate in a “mini-book club”. You could read it together, taking turns reading and sharing your thoughts. You could also get your students do a book

report. Others may prefer snail mail. Students could pick up work packages to be completed then deliver these finished packages for tutors to review.

Covid-19 is requiring us to stretch our imagination and become more resilient. I am interested in your thoughts and suggestions. **On Tuesday, September 22, 2020 at 2 p.m. we will be having a Tea and Talk for Tutors meeting via Zoom.** Get your tea ready and join us!



Favorite Websites

BBC Skillswise: [website](#) offering free videos and downloadable worksheets to help adult learners improve reading, writing and numeracy skills.

Khan Academy: a non-profit organization [website](#) with the mission of providing free, world-class education for anyone, anywhere. Learn about math, art, economics, physics, chemistry, medicine, finance, history and more.

“Resilience is knowing that you are the only one that has the power and the responsibility to pick yourself up.”

Mary Holloway

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We're on the Web!

www.tricountyliteracycouncil.ca

Visit our website regularly to learn about the latest FREE courses being offered.

Tips for Providing Instruction from a Distance

- Keep in regular contact with learners to remind them about lessons or to make sure they are engaged (important). This can be done through phone, text, or email.
- Use a tool such as Zoom, Skype, etc. so that the tutor and learner can meet “face-to-face”. Most of these tools also allow you to share documents or curricula.
- Send a short text message that the learner can read and respond to.
- Send vocabulary words to the learner.
- Ask the learner to keep track of daily tasks using a calendar, as part of managing learning.
- Focus on small accomplishments. Highlight the positive. Always give authentic praise for efforts and for achievements.
- Provide activities which demonstrate learning and achievements and ensure

the learner can apply knowledge to real life situations and not just complete academic tests.

- Provide work and activities related to their goal.
- Set realistic timeframes based on the learner’s availability for learning.
- Use a variety of resources and activities, based on the learner’s experience, needs, and learning styles to create learning packages and strategies.



“The difference between a strong man and a weak one is that the former does not give up after a defeat.”

Woodrow Wilson

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