

Frequently Asked Questions: Adult Tutoring with ReadMCFL



One-to-one tutoring for adults is one of four literacy programs offered by the Monterey County Free Libraries.

Here are some frequently asked questions:

THE PROGRAM

What services are offered? One-to-one tutoring for adults who need help with reading, writing and conversation skills in English. It is a learner-centered, goal-driven, and confidential program.

How does it work? Tutors and learners meet at an MCFL branch or partner location once a week, for 1-2 hours, at a mutually agreed upon time.

How big is the program? About 70 volunteer tutors are working with 75 learners; we receive new learner applications regularly.

Is there a cost to learners? The program is free for learners.

How long have you been doing this? MCFL's literacy program is celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2012-13.

TUTORS

I don't have any teaching experience. Most tutors have never taught or tutored before. A desire to help and being comfortable using English are the biggest assets. We provide an initial training, resources, and on-going support.

I only speak English. There is no second language requirement for tutors. Learners need to know enough English to be able to make themselves understood and to understand their tutor before they are partnered with a tutor.

How long will I work with my learner? We ask tutors and learners to make an initial six month commitment; many pairs work together for 1-3 years.

When are the trainings? New Tutor Training is offered every other month (odd-numbered months). The training is five hours long, divided into two parts. The training is usually offered two evenings in the same week, generally from 6-830 pm, and takes place at locations throughout the county.

What will we work on? As a learner-centered program, the learner's initial literacy skill level and goals determine the focus of the work undertaken.

What are the most common goals learners have? Common goals include: getting a better job, helping children with homework, taking the Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) exam; getting a GED; being able to talk to the boss; helping

family members understand instructions from doctors; talking to the children's teachers, getting a driver's license, and more.

- What kind of resources do you have for me to use?** Resources include the literacy collection (tutor prep books, reference books, and workbooks for use by the learners), a dedicated online site with lesson plan suggestions for hundreds of literacy skill exercises, the literacy program staff and branch reference staff, and training in using the internet to find literacy materials suited to your learner.
- Can I get more training?** Seminars and Tutor Roundtables provide on-going opportunities to gain more or improve current tutoring skills.
- How can I get started?** Call the ReadMCFL office (831-883-7597), or complete a **Volunteer Tutor Interest Form**; the forms are available at MCFL branches and partner sites, or online at: www.MontereyCountyFreeLibraries.org/ALP/index.html
Forms may be:
- dropped off at an MCFL branch or partner site
 - sent by surface mail (188 Seaside Circle, Marina 93933)
 - or faxed (831-883-7574)

LEARNERS

- Who can apply?** Anyone, 18 and over, who needs help with reading, writing and conversation skills in English.
- My English is not very good.** Learners with a non-English first language need to know enough English to be able to make themselves understood and to understand their tutor.
The learner's English does not have to be perfect, but they should be "comfortable" with using English, as there is no second language requirement for tutors.
- How long can I get help?** As long as you need help, and continue attending regularly.
- How much does it cost?** The program is free for learners.
- How do I apply?** Call the ReadMCFL office (831-883-7597), or complete a **Learner Interest Form**. The forms are available at MCFL branches and partner sites, or online at: www.MontereyCountyFreeLibraries.org/ALP/index.html
If you have questions, call the ReadMCFL office (831-883-7597). We have Spanish speaking staff member to assist.
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