
Practitioner Toolkit: Working With Adult English Language Learners

Table of Contents

Acknowledgments	iv–v
Introduction	vii–ix
Frequently Asked Questions	x–xv
Part I Background Information	
Adult Non-Native English Speakers in the United States	I 1–6
Program Types and Challenges	I 7–12
Part II Activity Packets	
Orientation for New English Language Learners	II 1–4
Needs Assessment and Learner Self-Evaluation	II 5–28
Lesson Planning	II 29–40
Activities to Promote Interaction and Communication	II 41–56
Activities to Promote Reading Development	II 57–76
Part III Parent Education in Family Literacy Programs	
Parent Education Overview	III 1–4
Parent Education Instructional Strategies	III 5–8
Parent Education Activities	III 9–16
Sample Parent Education Lessons	III 17–22
Literacy Activities in the Home	III 23–26
Part IV Topics in Adult ESL Education and Family Literacy	
English Language and Literacy Learning: Research to Practice	IV 1–24
Assessing Adult English Language Learners	IV 25–30
English Language Assessment Instruments for Adults Learning English	IV 31–52
Spanish Language Assessment Instruments for Adult Spanish Speakers Learning English	IV 53–58
Adult English Language Learners and Learning Disabilities	IV 59–64
Addressing the Needs of Specific Groups of Learners	IV 65–70
Helping Adult English Language Learners Transition into Other Educational Programs	IV 71–78
Preparing for Permanent Residency and Citizenship	IV 79–86
Part V Resources	
Parent Education Resources	V 1–4
Adult ESL Resources	V 5–14

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The National Center for Family Literacy

The National Center for Family Literacy (NCFL) was established in 1989 with a grant from the William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust. Founded by current president Sharon Darling, NCFL began with a simple but ambitious mission: to help parents and children achieve their greatest potential together through quality literacy programs. Today, NCFL is recognized worldwide as the leader in family literacy development. NCFL works with educators and community builders through an array of services to design and sustain programs that meet the most urgent educational needs of disadvantaged families. (www.famlit.org)

Center for Applied Linguistics

The Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL) is a private, non-profit organization involved in the study of language and the application of linguistics research to educational, cultural, and social concerns. A major focus of CAL's work is to encourage and improve language and literacy education in the United States. CAL carries out quantitative and qualitative research on language issues and evaluations of language programs; provides technical assistance to schools and school districts and professional development for teachers; and collects, analyzes, and disseminates information about language and culture.

CAL houses the **Center for Adult English Language Acquisition (CAELA) Network**, the only national center in the United States that focuses on adult ESL language and literacy issues. The mission of the CAELA Network is to help states that have recently begun serving adult English language learners build their capacity to improve the skills of teachers and administrators in adult English as a second language (ESL) programs. This, in turn, will help promote the success of the learners. The CAELA Network also makes research findings and research-based resources available to practitioners working with adult English language learners across the nation (www.cal.org/caela). The CAELA Network replaces the National Center for ESL Literacy Education (NCLE), which was operated by CAL from 1989 to 2004 and provided technical assistance to professionals working with adult English language learners. This toolkit was developed by NCLE staff.