

Voluntary Tutor News

RaPAL Conference 2008

In this issue

Spotlight Series	2
Colour Cards	2
Livewire Real Lives Series	2
New Software: Abacus	2

Contacts

091 567660

Kieran Harrington, ALO

kieran.harrington@cgvec.ie

Alison Jones, Tutor Support

alison.jones@cgvec.ie

Please remember to contact us

- When you or your student changes address or phone number
- If the time of the class changes
- If you are unable to attend class and you would like us to contact your student
- If you have any other queries of any kind

We are very pleased to announce that the Galway Adult Basic Education Service will be hosting the annual RaPAL conference. It is the first time this prestigious conference has been held outside the UK.

RaPAL stands for **Research and Practice in Adult Literacy**. As an independent network of learners, teachers, managers and researchers, it is the only British national organisation that focuses on the role of literacy in adult life. The organisation was established in 1984.

For additional information, visit their website: <http://www.literacy.lancs.ac.uk/rapal/>

Details of the conference are as follows:

Theme: Inclusion and Engagement in Adult Literacy, Numeracy and ESOL

Friday 20th June to Saturday 21st June 2008

Optional pre-conference event Thursday 19th June

There are several workshop themes:

- Approaches to teaching and learning that include a range of learners with different interests, aspirations and needs.
- Engaging with new technologies.
- Literacy, language and

numeracy practices and engagement in communities

- Policy and practice: the challenges and opportunities for engagement and inclusive learning.

- Inclusive practices in research in literacy, numeracy and ESOL.

Anyone can attend the sessions, although there is a daily entry fee. Check the notice board for further information on times, venues etc. Exact titles of all the workshops will be available soon. It is an excellent opportunity to hear from national and international experts in the field of literacy.

Practical Workshop: Kieran Hayes

One of our tutors, Kieran Hayes, is running a 2-hour workshop entitled: 'The principles and practice of inclusive education'. It promises to be a varied and practical session, and will include tips and tricks for working with dyslexic students and how to make ma-

terials accessible for people with learning disabilities. He will also highlight the different types of learning disabilities that our students face and give practical tips on how to support them in the one to ones. All tutors are welcome to attend the session,

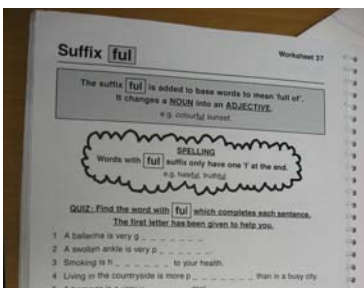
which will be held here in Seville House in mid May.

If you are interested, please give your name to Lisa or Alison, stating your preference for a daytime or evening session. Tea and coffee will be provided!

Spotlight Series



Find these books in the spelling section



Author: Gillian Aitken

Published by: The Robinswood Press

As part of a spelling programme, tutors have found this series easy to use and effective. Spelling rules are presented clearly and simply at the top of the page, with the rest of the page made up of varied exercises. The author herself states that an uncluttered layout, clear, specific worksheets, and work that is challenging but not too daunting is one of her aims in writing the book.

Spotlight on Blends: Easier blends are introduced first,

with more complex blends used at the beginning and end of words found in book two. Tutors can follow the order of worksheets to suit the needs of students.

Spotlight on Suffixes: Book One covers the most common suffixes, with Book Two being divided into two sections: the first one dealing with basic suffix rules and the second one dealing with nouns, verb and adjective suffixes. Worksheets vary in levels of difficulty, but the material is very comprehensive and has a wide application for tutors. It assists with grammar and word derivations¹ as well

Colour Cards

These brightly designed packs of colourful, glossy cards can benefit both ESOL and literacy students. They can be used in many different ways, such as vocabulary building, developing verbal comprehension, teaching specific language structures or as props for a writing activity. They can be used to improve memory as well. We have four sets of these cards entitled: Verb Tenses, Prepositions, What's Missing and Everyday Objects.



Livewire: Real Lives Series



Favourites include Manchester United and Princess Diana

Published by Hodder & Staughton in association with the Basic Skills Agency, this series of books offers something for everyone. Whether your student is interested in film, music, football, world politics or famous people, there is a book to cater for their taste. The books themselves are written in a clear, large font, with simple sentences and short paragraphs.

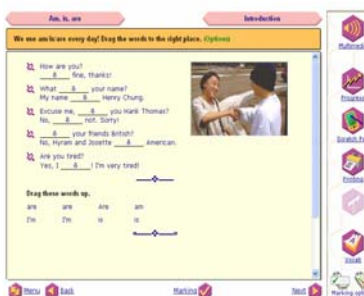
They tell the story of the person's life with accompanying pictures and is an exciting resource for adults who are improving their reading skills. The factual content of someone's life is well documented and leads to a greater understanding of character, motives and achievements.

The books are graded using a colour coded system, but are

fairly close in level, I think. Livewire has other series, as well, which are equally entertaining, such as Livewire Chillers, Livewire Investigates and Livewire Youth Fiction.



New Software: Abacus



A typical work screen from Tense Buster

If the small IT room is free and you feel that your student would benefit, you could try accessing our new software package from Abacus called **Tense Buster**. We have two levels of Tense Buster: elementary and lower intermediate. Simply click

on the desktop icon you would like to work on and choose a topic from the drop-down list. The software is primarily intended for ESOL students, but we have found that literacy students enjoy it, too. The pages are interactive and colourful and generally

relevant to everyday life in their choices of topics, language and speech, with instant marking options if desired. It is also possible to print the exercises and, using tense buster authoring tools, even write your own worksheets.