



NALA News

National Adult Literacy Agency

January 2002

€€€€€€ The Euro is here! ... for more information go to page 8 €€€€€€

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Health Literacy Project launched by Minister



At the launch of the NALA Health & Literacy Project were L to R: Anne McCarthy Health Researcher, Micheál Martin TD, Minister for Health & Children, Jennifer Lynch Project Co-Ordinator, Deirdre Sadlier Director, Dental Health Foundation.

The NALA Health Literacy Project was formally launched on November 11th. The Project aim is to breakdown the barrier to health services which poor literacy skills can create. With over 500,000 adults experiencing literacy difficulties in Ireland there are major implications for health providers and practitioners. People experiencing literacy problems may find it difficult to read medicine bottles, health promotional material and signs in health centres or hospitals.

The project was launched by Micheál Martin, TD, Minister for Health & Children in Cork where it is based. This is the first Irish project specifically aimed at raising awareness and knowledge among health practitioners to better equip them to deal with the issue of poor literacy skills. The Health and Literacy Project is funded by the Health Promotional Unit of The Department of Health & Children. **For more details contact Jennie Lynch on 021-431 7012 or email jlynch@nala.ie.**

Finally at this event the NALA Cork Regional Office was official launched. NALA thanks City of Cork VEC for accomodation the Agency in its premises. 

Models of Family Literacy Seminar


At the end of November a highly successful seminar on family literacy took place titled "Models of Family Literacy". Family literacy refers to various programmes that address the intergenerational nature of literacy. The impetus for family literacy programmes is that parents are usually the primary educators of children.

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Continued from page 1



Speakers at the 'Models of Family Literacy' seminar were L to R: Maura Grant, Sian Welby & Ann O'Gara

In addition adults with literacy difficulties are often motivated to improve their skills because of the educational needs of their children. The objectives of this event were to promote the issue, to exchange knowledge and experience and to inform future decision-making. The speakers included Sian Welby, Assistant Director, Family Literacy, Basic Skills Agency (UK), Maura Grant, Co-ordinator, Breaking the Cycle project and Ann O'Gara Assistant National Co-ordinator of Home School Liason. NALA will be developing guidelines on family literacy in the future. 

CROSSWORD

CLUES:

ACROSS

- 2 Moll's ---, or the --- of Dunloe (3)
- 4 Euro country - came top of Ireland's World Cup group (8)
- 6 Easter ---, 1916 (6)
- 7 Euro country - home of pasta (5)
- 10 Six euro = --- cent (3,7)
- 12 They can be fried, scrambled, boiled or poached (4)
- 13 Euro country - red nail (anagram) (7)
- 15 How Ireland voted on the Nice Treaty (2)
- 16 Male from Clare, Cork or Kerry? (7,3)

DOWN

- 1 Tale found in a book? (5)
- 2 It may contain a half of Guinness (5)
- 3 Mobile? (5)
- 4 This will disappear in Feb 2002 (4)
- 5 Euro country - my anger (anagram) (7)
- 8 --- Baba, or Muhammad --- (3)
- 9 Euro country - big mule (anagram) (7)
- 10 Euro country - home of paella (5)
- 11 Euro country - home of tulips (7)
- 12 The ---, U2 guitarist (4)
- 14 Capital of 7 across (4)

Find the solutions to this crossword on page 9

Consultation on the draft NALA Strategic Plan 2002-2006

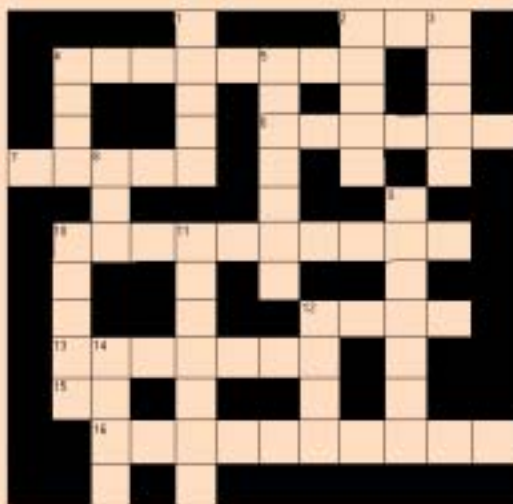
NALA Members were recently consulted in relation to the new NALA Strategic Plan. The Plan outlines what activities the Agency will carry out and the reason for these activities over the period 2002 - 2006. This is the Agency's second strategic plan and is largely based on the agreed goals of our original plan.

The draft of the Strategic Plan was drawn up as a result of extensive efforts and input from the NALA Executive Committee and NALA staff. This involved several meetings to develop the draft document. The final phase in the development of the Plan was a consultation meeting with the membership.



Workshop participants at the NALA Strategic Plan Consultation Day.

The consultation meeting with Members in late November was well attended. This event involved a general introductory session and workshops. Members were generally very positive about the draft plan. A copy of the draft strategic plan can be viewed on our website: www.nala.ie 



News from around Ireland

Wicklow Literacy Guide - Wicklow People

Annette Mangan and Helen Geoghegan Adult Literacy Organisers (ALOs) in West Wicklow recently launched a booklet on adult education services called "Learning For Your Future". This is part of the development of learning services in the area.

New service in North Tipperary

- Tipperary Star

North Tipperary Adult Literacy Service has established an adult literacy learning and support service in conjunction with St. Sheelan's College in Templemore. The new service aims to be "of the community for the community".

Leitrim doubles in size in a year

- Leitrim Observer

The Leitrim Adult Literacy Service (ALS) or LEAP has



doubled the number of people receiving tuition in their programme in the last 12 months. This brings the number of learners up to 93.

Carrigaline tutor training award ceremony - Carrighoun Weekly

Earlier this year 16 tutors at the Carrigaline Adult Literacy Scheme completed tutor training courses. Frances Mc Inerney ALO presented the tutors with their certificates at the Parish Centre.

Carlow has 300 learners

- Carlow People

The ever-expanding Carlow ALS now boasts 300 learners. The Scheme is involved in the full range of literacy initiatives including Return to Education, services in ESOL and a range of other adult basic education initiatives.

Newbridge CTW integrate literacy

Instructors and the Manager in the Newbridge CTW workshop have undertaken the NALA / NUI Integrating Literacy course. The workshop provides training for young people in catering, sewing, hairdressing, arts and crafts and computers. Literacy development is an

important part of the programme and is now also integrated into every course.

Ballymun publishes diary for 2002

The Ballymun Adult Read and Write Scheme has just published a diary for 2002, which includes a collection of stories by Scheme participants. The publication is called "Not just another day" and is funded by the City of Dublin VEC.



Sligo in operation 21 years

- Sligo Weekender

The Sligo Adult Literacy Scheme is celebrating 21 years up and running. Its services focuses particularly on improving practical ever-day literacy skills.

Mallow celebrates 11 years

- Mallow Star

The Mallow Adult Literacy Centre celebrated 11 years in operation in September of this year. Local people originally set up the centre in 1990 International Literacy Year.

Minister opens Dunshaughlin centre - Meath Chronicle

Minister of State Mary Wallace opened a new Adult Literacy Centre in Dunshaughlin earlier this year. It is in the grounds of the local community college.

Liveline VIP launches book

RTE's Liveline presenter Joe Duffy launched the book "Write Away" by the CDVEC ALS. The event took place in the summer.



20 new literacy tutors for Offaly

- Offaly Independent

Nearly 20 new tutors received their VEC certs at a ceremony earlier this year at the County Library in Offaly. Both VEC Chairperson and CEO were at the event, which was hosted by Mary McLoughlin Offaly ALO.


International Literacy Day - A great success

By all accounts International Literacy Day (ILD) was a great success this year. The theme was "Literacy for life" focussing on how literacy impacts on day-to-day life. The event included a range of national and international experts hosting workshops on such subjects as family literacy, workplace literacy and literacy and health. Of particular interest this year was a highly enjoyable presentation from Neil Griffiths of Storysacks an innovative family literacy concept.



Anne Gogarty, Neil Griffiths and Veronica Burke taste the atmosphere at the International Literacy Day

The high point of the event was the arrival and speech by An Taoiseach Bertie Ahern TD. His speech covered the literacy situation comprehensively. He stated he was aware that "we have a lot left to do, we clearly do; but we must also recognise what has been achieved". He also pointed to the fact that "these are exciting times to be involved in literacy promotion in Ireland". He went on to say that he wanted "to assure you that my Government would continue to prioritise action on this area".


Good literacy skills are key to a better quality of life. This year's celebration of ILD was an opportunity to reinforce this belief and highlight it to the wider public. Other areas covered by ILD included Literacy & Money, the NALA Quality Framework and Computers and the Internet for all. The latter involved a presentation from Elaine Butler of Equalskills (see page 7 for more details). 



An Taoiseach Bertie Ahern addressing the audience at International Literacy Day 2001

Supporting English for Speakers of Other Languages

NALA has begun a consultation process to examine provision of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) in Adult Literacy Schemes. This process will involve both national and international research on best practice in the provision of ESOL. The aim of the consultation process will be to develop policy guidelines and supports in relation to ESOL for the Literacy Service.

Meanwhile NALA is addressing the need for ESOL support for local Literacy Schemes with the provision of training. These courses are taking place in Cork, Dublin and Athlone in the coming months. For more information contact Fergus Dolan on 01-809 9191 or email fdolan@nala.ie. 

Update on the NALA Quality Framework

Currently NALA are finalising a plan to mainstream the Quality Framework. This plan has been informed by in-depth and survey research with key stakeholders on their attitudes towards using the Framework and the supports they require. The plan proposes to mainstream the Framework on a phased basis with phase 1 starting April 2002.

The plan will be sent to Literacy Schemes in February and will detail the steps that Schemes need to take to get involved in the Quality Framework. A limited number of Schemes can be accommodated in phase 1 (April-Dec 2002). Schemes that are successful in their application for involvement in 2002 will be given significant support to help them implement the Framework. Read all about it in the plan. The balance of Schemes will be accommodated in subsequent phases.

- * improves communications and relationships in Schemes
- * promotes ownership and empowerment amongst all key stakeholders (e.g. learners, tutors and management).



Literacy Schemes are already doing much of what is involved in using the Quality Framework e.g. planning programmes in line with learners' needs, providing a range of tuition options, etc. Using the Framework however makes Schemes' work more effective. Moreover it can actually lessen the workload of Adult Literacy Organisers and other ABE providers. For example, using the Quality Framework can be invaluable in helping to write the new local strategic development plans for the Department of Education and Science. These two initiatives compliment each other in three main areas:

- Process* – how you go about them
- Content* – what you actually cover
- Support* – what can help you complete the process.

Final note

I hope I have evoked your interest in the Quality Framework and that you are looking forward to hearing more about it and getting involved! A big thank you to organisers and other adult literacy service providers who returned completed Quality Framework questionnaires.

What is the Quality Framework?

It is a 'bottom up' quality assurance system designed specifically for the adult basic education (ABE) service. ABE stakeholders can use it to:


- * look systematically at their own practice,
- * compare it against the Framework,
- * identify ways to improve their practice.

Since it was very successfully piloted NALA have made the Framework more user-friendly and have developed an improved user-guide (available April 2002)

The benefits of using the Quality Framework


The advantages of using the Quality Framework were identified in the pilot as follows:

- * useful at any stage of a Scheme's development

If you require further information or if you have any comments or suggestions please contact me, Claire O'Riordan, Quality Framework Co-ordinator tel: 01 – 809 9193 or email: coriordan@nala.ie 

Schemes to develop strategic plans

The Dept. of Education & Science has recently requested that Schemes develop Strategic Development Plans. These plans will help Literacy Schemes outline their proposed activities in a systematic way for a minimum of 3 years.

NALA have developed a model for a Strategic Plan to support Literacy Organisers in the preparation and drafting of their plan. If you have not already received a copy of the model Strategic Plan or you need more information contact **John Stewart on 01-809 9196 or email jstewart@nala.ie**. 

Association for paid Tutors established

Basic Education Tutors Association (B.E.T.A.) the recently formed association for paid Tutors is inviting you to become a member. It is also looking for comments and feedback on the development of the Association. Membership will cost £20. For more information or an application form contact Madeleine O'Regan on 087-2705621 or e-mail oregan@hotmail.com

NALA's Regional Offices – a hive of activity


Vital but sometimes forgotten, the NALA regional offices are involved in a wide range of projects on the ground. Based in Mullingar and Cork they serve a wide geographic area and have been extremely busy. The offices were set up to serve the distinctive needs of regional practitioners. With both offices up and running it means NALA can provide regional support for NALA members.

Initiatives

The Regional Offices are heavily involved in all of NALA's activities. They often lead on particular projects such as the NALA/FÁS/VEC Return to Education programme. Other major projects the Regional Workers support include the NALA Quality Framework, the NALA Assessment Framework and the promotion of literacy.

Other services

As well as being a link with members the Regional Offices provide information about NALA events and publications. In addition they provide some literacy resources for viewing and orders can be taken.

The most recent appointee as a Regional Development Worker was Paul Facey Hunter who is based in the Cork office. He has been spending much of his time getting a detailed picture of what is happening on the ground. If you have any queries about the work of the Regional Offices contact Mullingar 044-42111 email: nalamullingar@eircom.net or Cork on 021-4317011 e-mail: pfhunter@nala.ie. 

NALA Training update

NALA/WIT National Certificate for Literacy Tutors


For tutors who want to get accreditation, seven of the twelve modules from the NALA/WIT National Certificate for Literacy Tutors are now available as single certificates. This means that tutors can build up credits towards the full certificate on an ongoing basis. These modules generally involve 6 days of training plus assignments. Another module can be attained through the Scheme, if the initial training course has been validated by Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT). The NALA / WIT accreditation project uses Accreditation of Prior Learning, which is very innovative. This approach recognises the value of previous experience and awards exemptions from some modules.

Booking for training courses must be completed through your VEC Literacy Organiser, who will forward bookings to NALA or WIT as appropriate.

National Tutors Forum

The National Tutors Forum will be held on 26th January, 2002 in the Ashling Hotel. The forum will provide: updates on literacy developments, feedback to tutors on issues raised at the regional meetings and workshops on key themes. Last years inaugural event attracted 250 participants and was a very enjoyable and rewarding day and we look forward to a similar experience in January 2002.

Training Needs Analysis

A Training Needs Analysis of literacy practitioners is being carried out at present. CHL Consulting, who won the contract to carry out the work, have been surveying and consulting with tutors and organisers. The draft final report will be presented at the National Tutors Forum in January. 

National Adult Literacy Organisers Forum

28th February to 1st March 2002
Boyne Valley Hotel, Drogheda

Contact John Stewart 01 809 9196 or jstewart@nala.ie

Celebrating NALA / WIT accreditation project



Successful NALA/WIT participants 'done that got the t-shirt!'

In mid October the NALA WIT Accreditation project celebrated the graduation of literacy tutors and organisers. The participants received the National Certificate in Adult and Community Education- Literacy Tuition. They completed a very rigorous course, which asks them to acquire academic skills as well as improve their literacy practice. As one of the students put it "the course helped me to understand the theory around my teaching practice and to develop new skills." As mature students, all of the course participants were returning to learning after a long time.

This programme has been fully funded by the Department of Education and Science. For further information please contact **Geraldine Mernagh** 051 423895 or 302689 or e-mail

Gmernagh@gofree.indigo.ie 

National Adult Literacy Tutors Forum

26th January, 2002
Ashling Hotel, Dublin

Contact John Stewart 01 809 9196 or
jstewart@nala.ie

Equalskills - Ensuring everyone is part of the Information Society

Equalskills is a new online training and testing programme geared towards people of all ages and all walks of life. It is especially targeted at those who would not normally have contact with computers. The aim of the programme is to allow as many people as possible to experience computers



and the Internet. It is a fun, informal and uncomplicated introduction to computers, showing the use and role of technology in the everyday lives of all people.

Benefits of equalskills


There are many social, cultural and economic benefits to this project. These include widespread improved access to information resources and education opportunities. In addition it will encourage access by all citizens to e-Government and other essential services.

How will it work?

Everyone can take part in equalskills. Free training material will be available to assist people through the short programme. The programme is also flexible in that it can be incorporated into existing programmes or training can be given using equalskills as a stand-alone course.


How to become involved?

ECDL Ireland will provide the training material, the online test and certification free of charge, to anyone who wishes to help implement this initiative. Even if you do not wish to participate in the direct delivery of the programme there are still ways you can become involved.

To receive the equalskills training pack all that is necessary is that you register. This can be done on www.equalskills.com or a registration form can be sent to you. You can also call equalskills on 1850 3754557 (1850 eskills). 

Adult literacy research needs you!

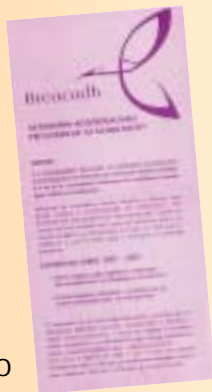
In forthcoming newsletters NALA will be sharing with you examples of action research and other research processes. We will also share with you ways in which you can engage in research to aid the development of a high quality adult literacy service.

Our approach to research is action-based which is based on a partnership. NALA's current research on the development of an Assessment Framework is an example of the importance of the action research approach in adult literacy work. Without the continued interest, support and expertise of practitioners and learners and other key stakeholders this research could not be effective. If you have a query or wish to discuss anything about literacy research contact **Gemma Lynch on (01) 8099192** or email glynch@nala.ie 


Breacadh - acmhainn aosoideachais trí Ghaeilge sa ghaeltacht

Seolfaidh an tAire Stáit Máire Ní Chochláin Breacadh, acmhainn úr aosoideachais, ar an Luan, 15 Deireadh Fómhair i gcathair na Gaillimhe. Is é cúram Breacadh ná gach tacaíocht a thabhairt do na Coistí

Gairmoideachais i dtreo seirbhís aosoideachais d'ardchaighdeán a sholáthar trí Ghaeilge sa Ghaeltacht. De réir Nóirín Ní Ghrádaigh, Comhordnóir, díreofar i dtús báire ar sheirbhís litearthachta a fhorbairt do chainteoirí dúchais Gaeilge. Mar chéad chéim, cuireadh tús an deireadh seachtaine seo caite freisin le




traenáil theagascóirí litearthachta ó na contaetha Gaeltachta uilig.

Beidh an tseirbhís litearthachta á tairiscint ag na Coistí Gairmodeachais, agus beidh sí rúnda agus saor in aisce. Tabharfaidh sí deis do dhaoine feabhas a chur ar a gcuid scileanna léitheoireachta agus scríbhneoireachta i ngrúpaí nó ar bhonn príobháideach. Tá Breacadh á mhaoiniú ag an Roinn Oideachais agus Eolaíochta, agus á stiúradh ag na Coistí Gairmoideachais agus Comhlachtaí Páirtíochta sna réigiúin Ghaeltachta. Nóirín Ní Ghrádaigh Breacadh 091-506952 / 087-9192381. 


Guiding Literacy Integration

There are many further education and training programmes in Ireland. They address a wide range of needs and interests and are different in many ways. However, they all have a shared interest in addressing the literacy needs of their learners. NALA is currently working with providers of further education and training to develop an integrated approach to literacy in their programmes.

To support its work in literacy integration NALA is developing 'Guidelines on Integrating Literacy' which will be published in the near future. For more information contact Blathnaid Ní Chinnéide on 01-809 9190 or email bnichinneide@nala.ie 

More Information about the Euro

For more information about the Euro you can get the following material from the NALA Resource Centre 01-8554332 or email resources@nala.ie

- * "What is the Euro"
A simple pocket guide introducing the Euro - FREE
- * "The Euro Changeover made simple"
A 10 paged A4 sized detailed introduction to the Euro - €3.17 

Focus on ESOL Literacy Resources

Below are a range of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) resources previewed. All of these materials are available from the NALA Resource Centre. You can contact them on 01 8554332 or email resources @nala.ie. You can also request a Resource Guide from the centre and it will be posted to you. The items below are not reviewed but merely a brief description of the content of the ESOL Resources.

500 Tips for TESOL

Published by Kogan Page.
Price €24.25/IR£19.10

This book is full of useful and practical advice for the less experienced ESOL teacher. It is presented in an easy-to-use format, with handy hints and practical suggestions, based on the authors' years of experience in this field. The seven chapters cover: planning for teaching and learning, meeting learners' needs, language work in the classroom, implementing self-access, using information and communication technologies, assessment, personal and professional development. Each tip or piece of advice/teaching strategy is outlined in bold, followed by the suggested way forward.

Beginning to Write

Published by Cambridge University Press.
Price €26.03/IR£20.50

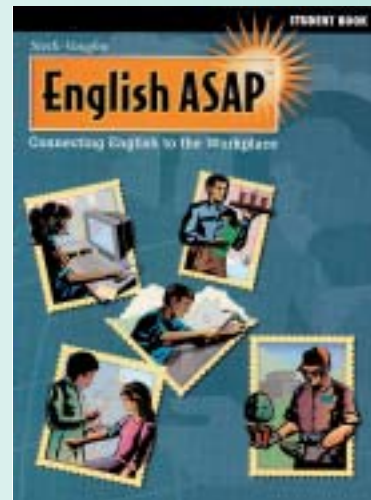
This book contains over 100 writing activities suitable for elementary and intermediate learners. The book shows that it is possible to take the teaching of writing seriously at an early stage in language learning. The introduction discusses the differences between speaking and writing, the purpose of writing and its real world uses. It gives a clear account of process writing and considers approaches to the teaching of writing. Beginning to Write contains activities, which can be used to:

- * Start learners writing with confidence
- * Focus on the writing process
- * Show how valuable computers can be in teaching writing

Focus on outcomes and on the assessment of writing.

English ASAP Series – Connecting English to the Workplace

Published by Steck-Vaughan.
Price €25.33/IR£19.95



The NALA Resource Room at present stocks the following titles from this series:
English ASAP – Teachers Edition – Literacy Level
English ASAP – Student Book - Literacy Level
English ASAP – Student Book – Book 1
English ASAP – Student Book – Book 2

This material has already been well received by tutors working with ESOL learners. They are well designed and full of colour. The emphasis is on getting the learner ready for the world of work. These resources originate in the USA and there will be a few spelling differences. However, the content is very appropriate for learners in Ireland.

Solution to Crossword from page 2

ACROSS: 2. Gap; 4. Portugal; 6. Rising; 7. Italy; 10. Six hundred; 12. Eggs; 13. Ireland; 15. No; 16. Munster man.

DOWN: 1. Story; 2. Glass; 3. Phone; 4. Punt; 5. Germany; 8. Ali; 9. Belgium; 10. Spain; 11. Holland; 12. Edge; 14. Rome.

English for Everyday Activities Dictionary

Published by New Readers Press.

Price €15.87/IR£12.50

Based on the step-by-step aspects of daily activities, this American dictionary focuses on specific processes e.g. waking up, riding a bus, playing CDs, using an ATM. It is intended for adult learners and the sequenced coloured illustrations are clear and well drawn. Each sequence activity is described in a sentence underneath the picture, e.g. Jenny looked up Kate's phone number in the phone book. The dictionary originated in the USA, but it is still very appropriate for students in this country, apart from a few spelling differences.

English for Everyday Activities: A Picture Process Dictionary Activity Workbook

Published by New Readers Press. Price

€8.38/IR£6.60

A wide range of activities focus on the vocabulary from the main text of the dictionary. Learners practice through reading, writing and speaking exercises.

Five Minute Activities

Published by Cambridge University Press.

Price €22.28/IR£17.55

Five-Minutes Activities offers over 130 short activities, and provides useful material which can be adapted to suit classes of different ability levels. Almost all the activities can be learner led. Some are well tried favourites, others offer new ideas and variations.

Fuel for Words: Energy Use & Saving

Published by C. Maby. Price

€35.49/IR£27.95

This manual was developed to raise awareness of the need for efficient use of energy in the home, to promote benefits to the household economy, comfort and health. It has been designed for use in literacy and ESOL classes and consists of a collection of practical activities, based on the theme of energy. Each chapter contains tutors' notes, activities and photocopiable worksheets, which offer a variety of

exercises at a basic level. The information is presented in a very clear style and the material illustrated with black and white drawings and diagrams.

Instant Lessons Series

Published by Pearson Education.

Price €40.95/IR£32.25



This is a new and exciting range of photocopiable resources at three levels. NALA at present stock Elementary Level and Intermediate Level. Each book offers 40 complete lessons for practice in reading, writing, grammar and vocabulary, 10 for each section. Each lesson is designed to last around 55 minutes. Most of the activities involve learners in pair work or small groups. There are clear guidelines for the tutor on preparation, timings and keys to the activities.

Lessons from Nothing - Previewed

Published by Cambridge University Press.

Price €24.13/IR£19.90

Lessons on Nothing is a practical sourcebook of around 70 language teaching activities which do not require extensive facilities or preparation. Devised primarily for tutors this book is a valuable source of easy-to-use activities. The book includes well-known activities as well as original ones and includes:

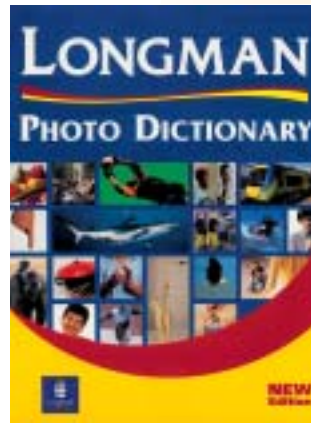
- * Activities which encourage interaction and cooperation
- * Activities for immediate use
- * Activities for all ages and levels
- * Clear presentation

Longman Photo Dictionary

Published by Pearson Education.

Price €19.30/IR£15.20

Using full colour photographs and colour diagrams, this dictionary presents its information in a clear and lively way. It covers 3,000 basic words. Each page is devoted to a particular topic. The photographs are numbered and the key to the numbers is printed on the same page. Topics are varied, up-to-date and appropriate for adults. They include hobbies and games, entertainment, sports, roads and road signs, electronics, kitchen equipment, opposites, prepositions, actions and emotions and many more. There are also short exercises to help practise new words.

**Ship or Sheep: An Intermediate Pronunciation Course**

Published by Cambridge University Press.

Price €8.38/IR£6.60

This is a comprehensive pronunciation course for intermediate students of English. It provides systematic practice of English pronunciation, stress and intonation through a wide variety of interesting exercises and activities.

The course is accompanied by a recording of all the practice material on three cassettes. The book and the recording are both designed for use in class and by learners working alone. The complete course consists of: Ship or Sheep? Student's Book Cassettes 1, 2 & 3. Introducing English Pronunciation A Teacher's Guide.

Teaching Basic Literacy to ESOL Learners: A Training Course

Published by London LLU.

Price €83.80/IR£66.00

This new teaching package provides a course of training, which covers the main aspects of the theory and practice of teaching reading and writing to beginner ESOL learners. The course consists of four whole day sessions, a materials workshop and a practical assignment. The publication contains a detailed lesson

plan, additional tutors' notes, training materials and ideas for incorporating the training video, which is available separately, into each of the four sessions.

Teaching Basic Literacy to ESOL Learners – Video.

Publisher London LLU.

Price €83.80/IR£66.00

This video demonstrates teaching literacy to students in ESOL classes. It can be used in conjunction with the Teaching Basic Literacy to ESOL Learners Course Materials. It is presented in a file with an accompanying ring bound booklet.

**The Cambridge Guide to Teaching ESOL**

Publisher Cambridge University Press.

Price €30.28/IR£23.85

Aimed at students on language teaching higher education courses, and of interest to language teachers generally, this new book presents an up-to-date guide to the central areas of teaching English to speakers of other languages. It provides definitions and descriptions of key terms and looks at the impact of economic and technological globalisation on English language teaching. It has 30 chapters, covering many aspects, including discourse, materials development, pronunciation, bilingualism, assessment, computer-assisted language learning and on-line communication.

Cambridge Learner's Dictionary

Published by Cambridge University Press.

Price €17.65/IR£13.95

This completely new dictionary is aimed at intermediate level students. It uses colour headwords with clear definitions in simple language and there are thousands of natural examples to show how words are used. It also includes a 32 page study section to help with grammar and vocabulary and has 16 pages of full colour illustrations. 📖

Latest literacy study gives hope for the future

The results of a new survey gives a picture of the knowledge and skills of 15-year-olds. Called the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) it examined students in literacy, mathematics and science from 32 countries including Ireland. While the survey says that Ireland is the fifth best in literacy and the 16 best in maths there are still 10% of 15 year olds with 'Level 2' (International Literacy Survey) literacy or below. In addition PISA did not include the 15% of Irish 15-year-olds who were out of school or in training programmes.

Students sat pencil and paper assessments in their schools. In addition students and their principals also answered questionnaires about themselves and their schools. This allowed PISA to identify what factors are associated with better and worse performance.

The international survey involved 265,000 students and was conducted first in 2000, will be repeated every three years. PISA was co-ordinated by the Department of Education through the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). For more information logon to the PISA website at www.pisa.oecd.org in addition copies of the report can be purchased from the Educational Centre, Drumcondra. Dublin 9.

NOTICE BOARD

Here is a range of important dates for your calendar:

- * **Tutors Forum**
26th January 2002
- * **Launch of Local Government Workplace Literacy Initiative report**
February 2002
- * **Organisers Forum**
28th February 2002
- * **Publication of NALA Annual Report**
March 2002
- * **NALA AGM**
23rd March 2002
- * **National Literacy Awareness Week**
9th September 2002
- * **International Literacy Day**
12th October 2002



NALA

National Adult Literacy Agency

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