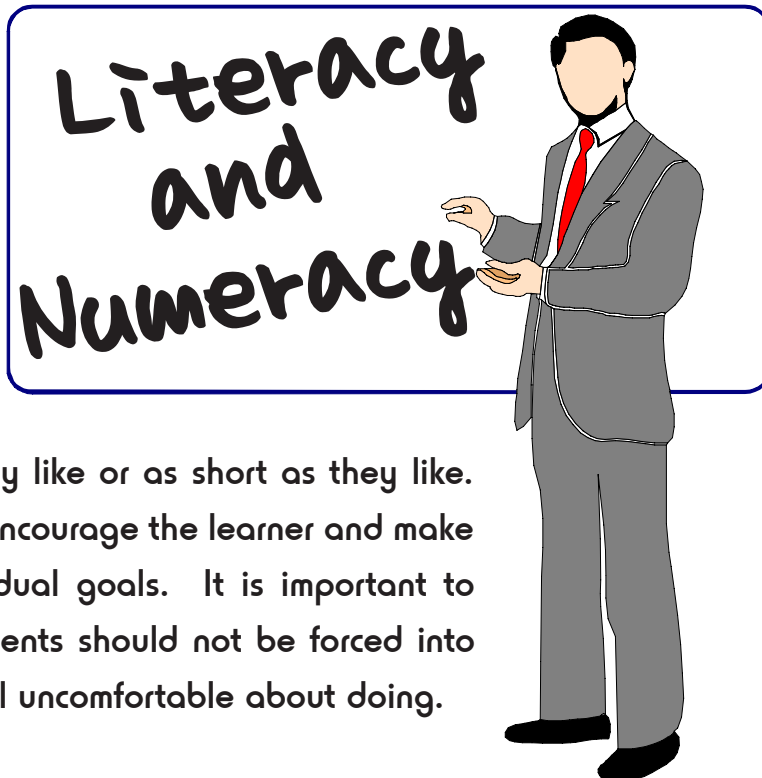


Overcoming these learning hurdles can be the first and the hardest thing to overcome as a teacher, coordinator and/or volunteer. Adult students need to have encouragement and a positive learning environment for them to foster new skills and learn adaptability.

By addressing their lack of skills and areas that they find embarrassing, is the key to encouraging the adult students into a learning environment. Most adult students need to feel in control of their learning and learning environment. You can achieve this control by:

- Allowing students to "personalise" the room by adding their own posters etc...
- Make the classroom more like a meeting place with pictures, posters, positive sayings etc.
- Have a CD player with a radio available. Encourage students to being in their own music to play in the background or allow them to choose the radio station
- Have a poster on the wall where the students can write down ideas/topics for class
- Organise morning teas and/or lunches where everyone participates and brings a dish. Food is a great way of bring people together.

Encourage students to do "talks" in front of the group to help overcome the fear of public speaking. Get the students to choose their own topic and allow them to talk for as long as they like or as short as they like. These are a few ways to encourage the learner and make them achieve their individual goals. It is important to remember that adult students should not be forced into doing something they feel uncomfortable about doing.



TUTOR S' TIPS

Tutor Tip is being supported by Department of Employment and Training - South West Region

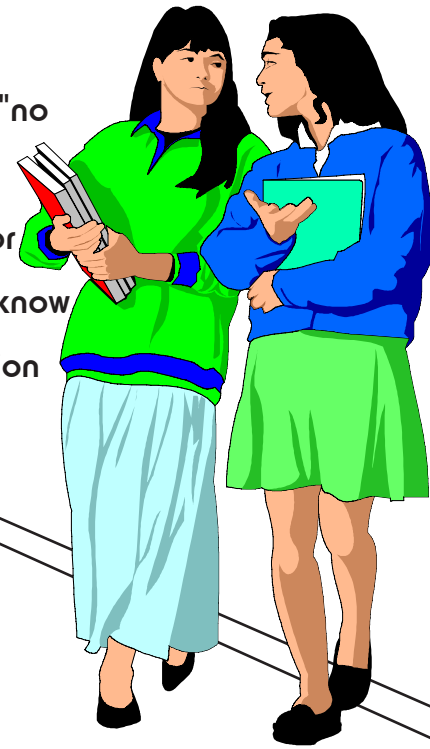


This Tutor Tips will look at ways to **encourage adult students into the literacy and numeracy classroom.** For many providers, it is hard to attract new students and keep them. This Tip will show different methods that have been successfully implemented in adult literacy classrooms across Brisbane.

There are very successful ways of attracting students to the classroom.

Some of the ones that have been used and worked are:

- free morning teas - an information session where it is a "no obligation" session
- Try before you buy - Ask students to come to a lesson or the classroom to have a look. Make sure the students know there is no pressure and it is completely at their discretion to decide if they want to attend class
- Reiterate that the class is NOT like school
- Put emphasis on the fact that the adult students have control over their own learning and will be given ample opportunities to have input into the topic selection and what they do or don't want to learn
- Show that the teacher and student are on the same level and no one in the classroom is worse or better. Everyone is given equal respect
- A GREAT marketing plan!!!
- Being able to create a comfortable and relaxing learning environment - learning is supposed to be fun and educational at the same time!!
- Encourage social activity in the classroom eg morning teas, coffees, chats between lessons. A social outing!
- Encourage craft or a hobby group before class, during lunch or once a month.



One of the main adult learning principles is adults need to have a sense of control over their learning and the learning environment. This can be achieved in several different ways. These are great ways to keep students in the classroom and active in their learning.

- Allow students to have input into the topics that are to be taught. This can be achieved by having a piece of paper up where students can write down ideas
- Students need to time to discuss the class without the presence of the teacher. Allow the students a designated time to have a student meeting where good and bad points of the class can be discussed without teacher presence. Meetings can be taught as a topic. Students must take minutes and relay minutes to the teachers. Students must also be aware that the teachers have the power of veto over suggested changes.
- Have a student handbook that the students write. In the handbook include topics such as:
 - times and dates
 - Behaviour code
 - Students' roles and responsibilities
 - Topic discussion
 - Student meetings

The handbook is a "sure-fire" way to ensure the students know they have control over their learning. Regularly update the handbook to reflect the changes in the students and their needs.

From my experience in the classroom, mature aged students are embarrassed about several things.

- Lack of their skills
- Their age and their "used by" date
- Fear of learning new things
- Change
- Lack of multi skills
- Lack of qualifications
- Computers
- Failure

