

Project Literacy Adult Tutoring Learner Frequently Asked Questions

(updated 12/20/2021)

Due to the COVID-9 Pandemic, Project Literacy is offering online tutoring opportunities to learners and tutors.

What are the requirements to be in Project Literacy?

- Be able to communicate in English
- Be at least 18 years old
- Read or write below the high school level
- Commit to work on basic reading and writing for 6 months or more
- Study with a tutor for a minimum of 2 hours per week
- *For online tutoring:* Have reliable access to a computer, smart phone, iPad, laptop, or other mobile device that can connect to the internet
- *For online tutoring:* Have reliable access to the internet

How do I start?

First you call the Project Literacy office at **510-577-3944**. We will ask you questions and fill out a form for you. Then we will schedule an appointment for you to meet (either online or in-person) with a Project Literacy staff member for an interview and assessment. If you qualify for the program, you will be added to the waiting list to be matched with a volunteer tutor.

How much is Project Literacy?

Project Literacy is FREE.

When do I meet?

Project Literacy will ask you what days and times you can meet. We will look for a tutor who can meet at those times.

Where do I meet?

You will meet with your tutor either in-person at the library, online or over the phone.

How many times do I meet?

You need to meet online with a tutor for at least 2 hours per week. It is up to you and your tutor to figure out a weekly meeting schedule.

How long can I stay in the Project Literacy program?

We ask that you stay in the program for at least 6 months and you are welcome to work with your tutor as long as you need to. Every 6 months you, your tutor, and the Project Literacy Coordinator will meet to discuss the progress of your goals and to decide if you would like to keep working with your tutor.

Can I be tutored in my first language?

No. All instruction is in English.

What if I want to learn English?

Project Literacy is a basic reading and writing program, so you will spend most of your time working on reading, writing, and speaking with your tutor. You must be able to have a conversation in English to meet with a tutor and be able to communicate on the phone and in-person in English. It is very important for you to practice speaking and listening in English every day.

Do I have to do homework?

We ask you to set a realistic daily homework goal. Sometimes homework is only 15 to 30 minutes. You and your tutor will decide if doing homework is a good fit for you.

Do I have to get a library card?

You do not need a library card for Project Literacy, but it is a good idea to get a library card. You can also use your library card to borrow books and take online learning classes. To get a library card please ask a Project Literacy staff member.

Who will teach me?

You will be working with a volunteer literacy tutor. This person has been trained by Project Literacy to help you with basic reading and writing. This person is giving time to you and to the program and is working for free.

How will I know if I'm learning?

You will talk to your tutor each time you meet about what new things you are able to do. We hope you will try to use reading and writing every day, so that you will know you are learning. You will be asked to set a reading and a writing goal. Think about these questions: What do you want to read better? What do you want to write better? Then work with your tutor to do these things and practice them at home and at work and at other times during the day.

I had a difficult time in school. How will I know if I can learn with Project Literacy?

Project Literacy works with you on what you want to learn. Your tutor will go at your speed. You can repeat what is difficult as many times as you need to so that you can learn the information or the skill well. Then it's important to practice it a lot.

Do you have anything to help kids?

Project Literacy is only for adults, 18 and over, who read below the high school level. If you are a Project Literacy learner meeting with a tutor you will get books and information to help your children who are under 14.

Can I sign up my brother, sister, or friend?

If your friends or family want to be in this program they must call Project Literacy at **510-577-3944**

I was in the program in the past, but I had to stop. What do I do if I want to start again?

Call our office at **510-577-3944** to sign up to start the program again.

How long will I have to wait for a tutor?

Once you sign up for Project Literacy, take the assessment, and complete the interview, you will be put on the waiting list. Sometimes we can match you very quickly. Other times you will have to wait.