

BACK TO BASICS

FOR FLORIDA ADULT BASIC EDUCATION PRACTITIONERS

A Case for Whole-Class Instruction: ABE Math for ESOL Students

BY STEVE OSTHOFF

At East Area Adult School in Auburndale, Florida, the staff has tackled the concept of whole class instruction head on, and has, as a result, smoothed the transition for International students from ESOL classes to ABE classes. Transition from an ESOL class to an ABE class can often be a challenging and frustrating experience, given that the typical ESOL student comes from countries where whole group instruction is the norm. The concept of independent or small group work can be rather foreign to them. Led by my awareness of this disparity in learning styles, I approached my principal, Keith Windham, several months ago about the possibility of teaching an ABE math class open only to advanced ESOL students to help ease their transition from one subject area to the next. Thanks to the support and freedom he gave me to experiment with, I was able to begin teaching an ESOL-only ABE class in December 2005. The results have been quite impressive.

From the start, I knew I wanted to use whole-class instruction as my primary teaching method. The requirements for enrolling in the class were minimal. Aside from being in advanced ESOL, students also had to pass a test demonstrating mastery of the multiplication tables and sign a contract promising to attend class on a regular basis. They were also given the math portion of the TABE test to complete before class began; these results would serve as a base line for comparison at the end of the course.

Of the seventeen students who signed up for the class, in December 2005, thirteen remained by April 18, 2006. Two students who moved away within two weeks after the course began

were post-tested on their last day. One student received one Literacy Completion Point and the other earned two. Another student moved unexpectedly, and a fourth tested out of the class and enrolled in an ABE reading class.

For the thirteen remaining students, the experiment has been a tremendous success. The attendance rate in my class is much higher than that of most other ABE classes. On many days, **100% of my students are present**. The overall attendance rate is 82%. Furthermore, as of April 1, 2006, my students had earned a total of **twelve LCPs**. Since they will be post-tested again at the end of May, there is still room for additional success.

It has been suggested throughout the state that whole-class instruction will not work in an open-entry, open-exit situation. However, through this experiment we have found whole class instruction to be a very positive experience for our students. The familiarity of this method seems to be comforting for many of our students. Since part of whole-class instruction means the teacher is walking around the classroom and engaging students, students feel the class is important, that they are important and they are therefore more likely to attend on a regular basis.

With the new funding formula just around the corner, it is essential that we attract new students to our ABE classes and keep them there. At East Area Adult School, **whole-class instruction has proven to be effective** and, used in combination with other teaching methods, is critical to the growth of our programs.

Steve Osthoff is the ESOL Department Head at East Area Adult School in Auburndale, Florida.



Frequently Asked Questions

Source: Mario Zuniga, State Adult Education Supervisor
NRS, Assessment, and Accountability -
Division of Community Colleges and
Workforce Education,
Florida Department of Education

Does every person giving the TABE 9 & 10 need to attend training and be certified by DOE to give the test? If yes, when and where will additional trainings be offered?

Yes, any person administering the TABE test will need to attend certification training every two years. Trainings will be provided through RTCs over the coming year and at the ACE conference this coming fall.

Can a person who has been to the training provide training for their local colleagues?

No, not at this time. We will be putting together a 'train the trainer' workshop this coming year to start building a cadre of certified TABE trainers throughout the state (hopefully, at least one per region).

Does any of this apply to agencies still using the TABE 7 & 8?

Yes, all of the above applies to agencies using the TABE 7&8.



Here Are Your Answers

To assist you, the practitioners, the ABE Task Force would like your input as we begin planning for the 2006-2007 school year. What resources, training or technical assistance may we provide that will be the most beneficial to you and your ABE programs? Here are a few of the ways you, the practitioners, said we could help.

- As you know, student retention and motivation are two key problem areas. One of the most influential factors for retaining and motivating students is his/her relationship to the teacher. I would love for trainings to be made available for adult educators that address these issues and train teachers on such things as classroom climate, positive interaction, encouraging, etc.
- Most adult education centers have to hire a good number of part time staff. We train our full time people on a continuing basis, but the part time staff members only get two in-services a year. I would love to have this type of training for both groups.
- The name of the course I teach is Adult General Education for Adults with Disabilities. Any training that you can offer on working with adults with disabilities will be very helpful to me in my program.

MATH TRICKS FOR EVERYDAY MATH

BY MARK RYAN

CALCULATE A TIP.

If the check is more than \$30.00, lop off the last three digits, and double the remaining number. The resulting tip always will fall between 15% and 20%.

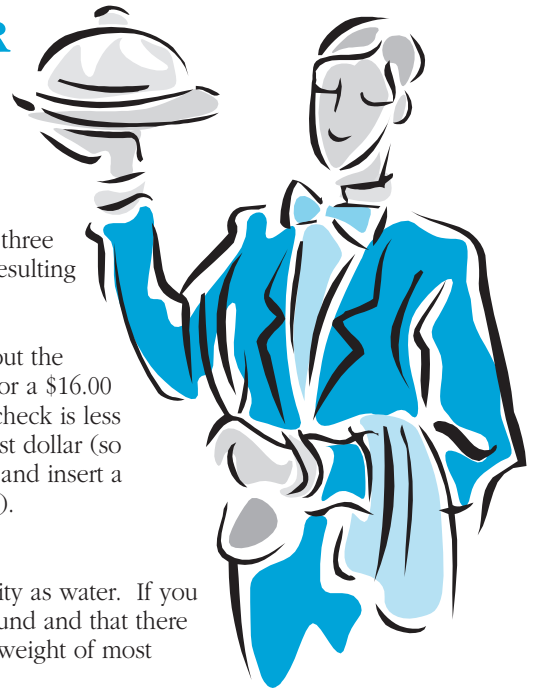
Example: If the check is \$87.46, take out the 7.46 and you're left with 8. Double it for a \$16.00 tip (18.3%). To calculate the tip if the check is less than \$30.00, round up to the next highest dollar (so \$13.27 becomes \$14), then double that and insert a decimal point for the tip (\$2.80, or 21%).

ESTIMATE A WEIGHT:

People and animals have roughly the same density as water. If you remember that one pint of water weighs one pound and that there are eight pints in a gallon, you can estimate the weight of most things.

Example: Want to know how much a dog weighs? Try to picture the number of gallon jugs of milk necessary to form the dog's body. For a midsize, three-gallon dog, multiply three times eight—the dog weighs around 24 pounds.

Mark Ryan is the founder of the Math Center, a math teaching and tutoring organization in Winnetka, Illinois. He is the author of *Everyday Math for Everyday Life: A Handbook for When It Just Doesn't Add Up*. The Web address for The Math Center is www.themathcenter.com.



ADULT BASIC EDUCATION PRACTITIONERS' C•O•M•M•I•T•T•E•E

A major goal of the ABE Florida project has been to develop a comprehensive Adult Basic Education program that could be implemented with consistency statewide by local school districts, community colleges and other local literacy providers. This program was designed to provide practitioners in Florida with all the necessary components to be successful in a performance-based funding environment.

The Adult Basic Education (ABE) Practitioners' Taskforce Committee has addressed issues, developed resources, and made recommendations to the Florida Department of Education regarding funding and accountability, curriculum, and assessment related to ABE course outcomes and standards. The Committee has been responsible for development of ABE management and instructional resources, training and dissemination of ABE resources, and providing technical assistance to practitioners throughout the state. The ABE Committee also identified and prioritized staff development topics for administrators, teachers, support staff, and the Florida Department of Education.

PRODUCTS OF THE ABE FLORIDA PROJECT

- ABE Florida web site (www.ABEFlorida.org) and electronic listserv
- Technical Assistance Paper for ABE
- Workplace Readiness Skills ABE Curriculum Frameworks and Course Performance Standards
- Adult Basic Education Curriculum Frameworks and Course Performance Standards
- ABE Curriculum Student Syllabi
- Workplace Readiness Curriculum Progress Report
- Workplace Readiness Skills Implementation Guide
- ABE Course Matrix
- ABE Florida Resource Guide
- ABE Florida Assessment Guide
- ABE Florida Training Guide, Training Video and PowerPoint Presentation
- ABE and Workplace Readiness Certificates
- "Get Your Message Out-Gaining Recognition for Adult & Community Education Programs"
- Health brochures for limited literacy adults
- Health and Literacy Frameworks and Course Standards
- Adult Beginning Reader Guide – Activities and Resources Level 0.0-3.9
- *Back to Basics*, a quarterly curriculum supplement containing tips and information for classroom teachers and volunteers
- *The Adult Basic Classroom*, a quarterly staff development publication on a single topic of interest to adult educators
- On-line (web-based) training modules: "Marketing and Community Awareness of Adult & Community Education Programs", "Introduction to ABE", "Understanding the ABE Student" and a teaching reading module, "Comprehensive Resources and Strategies Help."
- Correlation of FCAT Standards for grades 3, 5 and 8 with ABE Curriculum Frameworks (to promote adult learners/parents becoming teachers for their children.)

Source: Florida Department of Education, Office of Workforce Education
Practitioners' Task Force on Restructuring & Accountability 2002-2003 Report

Since the inception of the ABE Florida Project in 1998, Barbara Van Camp, Leon County Schools Adult & Community Education, has served as the facilitator for the Florida ABE Practitioners' Task Force Committee and Lynn Cunill, Leon County Schools Adult & Community Education, has served as the program manager for the grant. The following individuals have served on the committee providing leadership and dedication to the purpose of adult basic education programs and the students they serves:

Barbara Van Camp, Facilitator – Leon County Schools
 Lynn Cunill – Leon County Schools
 Jan Lichtenwalter – Brevard County Schools
 Barbara Jones – Okaloosa Walton Community College
 Roberta Thomas – Florida Community College at Jacksonville
 Linda Neel – Jackson County Schools
 Ruthann Tormey-Martin – Broward County Schools
 Iowana Whitman-Tims – Hillsborough County Schools
 Dolores Palladino – Consultant for Adult Education
 Barbara Spears-Corbett – Miami Dade County Public Schools
 Mary Davis - Washington-Holmes Technical Center
 Trish Rowland – Palm Beach County Schools
 Martha Jo Markey – Desoto County Schools
 Donna Sizemore – Indian River Community College
 Beverly McGowan – Florida Department of Corrections
 Kelley Jain – Florida Literacy Coalition
 Gilda Santalla - Miami Dade County Public Schools

Kim Armellini-Rogers – Broward County Schools
 Sandy Smith - Hillsborough County Schools
 Debbie Bevan – Indian River Community College
 Sheryl Walden – Florida Department of Corrections
 Rose Martin - Miami Dade County Public Schools
 Lori DeVilbiss – Sarasota County Schools
 Sandy Davis – Bay County Schools
 Jack Newell – Panhandle Adult Literacy Center
 Joe Cardwell – Escambia County Schools
 Glenda Anderson – Orange County Public Schools and Leon County Public Schools
 Kathleen Fontaine-Long – Bay County Schools
 Ellen Lauricella – Leon County Literacy Volunteers
 Marilyn Stevenson – Florida Community College at Jacksonville
 Melody Chaykin – Broward County Schools
 Jayne Lychako – Orange County Schools

The 2005-2006 grant year will be the final year for Leon County Schools to be the agent for the ABE Florida Project. Thank you to the many individuals who, over the years, have provided support, technical assistance and resources to the committee. A special thank you to the committee members who have volunteered service to the field of adult education and provided services to their fellow practitioners.

Thank you to Lisa Jones, Leon county Schools Adult & Community Education, who has served as the resource teacher to the ABE Florida Project. Her efforts have provided resources and instructional materials to the ABE practitioners across the state to enhance the quality of instruction in ABE programs.

Leon County Schools

ACE Adult & Community Education

283 Trojan Trail • Tallahassee, FL 32311 • (850)922-5343

www.ABEFlorida.org



Florida Department of Education

This curriculum supplement was developed by the Adult Basic Education Practitioners' Committee with an Adult Education State Leadership Grant, 2005-2006, from the Florida Department of Education, Office of Workforce Education.

PRSR.T. STD.
U S Postage

PAID

Permit #8
Tallahassee, FL