

Learn English At Home

Through language we empower people to take an active role in the community.

Newsletter No. 2
August 2010

What does LEAH do?

Advances the English language and literacy skills of Richmond residents from Black and ethnic minorities who are unable to attend Adult Education Classes.

Recruits and trains volunteer home tutors, with four training courses every year.

Runs health and wellbeing courses for Richmond residents who have English as an additional language.

FAQ: Why learn at home? Shouldn't students attend college?

Where possible we refer students to classes at a local centre. But places are limited for students with lower levels of English, particularly beginners at reading and writing. And since classes rarely have creches, they are not accessible to those with young children. Also, some students lack the confidence to join a course. Additionally, students may have mobility difficulties, mental health issues, or be ineligible for fee reduction due to immigration status. Moving suddenly or regularly also is very disruptive. Several of these barriers exist in the case of AF (right-hand column).

Case Studies August 2010

Referral: AF recently moved to the borough with her husband and children. She has a poor short-term memory and suffers panic attacks as a result of events in Afghanistan. She has never been to school and cannot read and write. She doesn't go out alone — she is frightened of getting lost, as she would not be able to ask for directions and cannot read the numbers on the buses. She would like to develop her language to gain some confidence and independence. Her goal is to eventually join a college ESOL course.

Progress Report:

CD was referred by her health visitor in May 2010 just after her baby was born and was paired with a tutor in June. She had been a student in Chad and her goal is to improve her English to gain entry to a college access course when the baby is a little older. Her tutor reported: She is keen to learn more about our culture and to integrate into life in and around Teddington. She is a quick learner and makes notes of new words and expressions.



July Outing to Kew

LEAH was established in Kingston 28 years ago and has been working in Richmond since 2007.

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unsung heroes
The Queen's Award for
Voluntary Service 2008



richmond upon thames
Community Award
Winner 2008
Diversity Award

Volunteers Needed

Can you spare a couple of hours a week to make a real difference to someone's life?

LEAH tutors visit students' homes and teach English 1:1.

You don't need any teaching experience as we run a free 21-hour training course. A six-month commitment is required.

Call or email Helen about the Twickenham course starting 16th September or the Kingston course in October.

To make a referral, call the LEAH office on 020 8255 6144 or email Helen, the Richmond Co-ordinator: richmond@leah.org.uk

FAQs continued...

What level are most LEAH learners?

Our students are nearly all Entry 1-3, with E1 the most common. As shown in the table below, students' current language level restricts opportunities to participate in community life and their future chances of moving on in work or education.

How do adults learn a second language?

Adults rarely "pick up" languages in the seemingly effortless way we marvel at in children and usually need to put in real effort. But the good news is that our students are highly motivated.

Why do some learn quickly and others slowly?

There are many factors which affect this. Plenty of learning and practice opportunities, having learnt a language before, good study skills and needing language for communication all help to speed up learning.

Factors affecting our students which slow down language learning include having left their own countries under difficult circumstance with short notice. This affects their mental health and confidence. In addition, starting in a new country can be daunting.

Do students learn from a textbook?

No. Our students have complex needs and the tutors tailor their materials according to the student's level and priorities. Students are often unfamiliar with UK systems or procedures and are not aware how to use or access services, so learn this alongside their language study.

LEAH Events in July/August

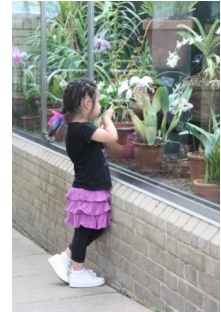
July: Tutor Workshop Teaching ESOL Learners with Literacy Needs

July: Domestic Abuse Awareness Training Workshop for Tutors and Community Workers at Welcare Richmond

July: Kew Gardens: LEAH Annual Outing

August: Teddy Bears' Picnic in Bushy Park

For students, children, tutors and teddy bears. (cancelled due to weather, will be rescheduled for end Aug)



This chart shows the ESOL* National Curriculum levels, which range from E1 to L2, together with typical educational and work opportunities at these levels.

Language class equivalent	ESOL Level		Equivalent Qualifications	Other courses students at this level may join	Typical jobs for students at this level
beginner	Most LEAH students are E1/E2	Entry 1 (E1)	Foundation Learning Qualifications. Eg <i>Skills for Life Functional Skills</i> <i>(These include subject and/or vocational knowledge & skills, and personal/social development.)</i>	Community based class, eg sewing, diet and keep fit.	Cleaner or work that requires minimal communication and/or training
elementary		Entry 2 (E2)			
pre-intermediate		Entry 3 (E3)			
intermediate				Courses with "embedded" ESOL, eg hairdressing, childcare, jobsearch Life in the UK Test for citizenship requires E3 reading	Customer-contact work such as shop, café or restaurant.
upper-intermediate		Level 1 (L1)	4 GCSEs (D-E) Level 1 BTEC, NVQ	mainstream NVQ1, eg beauty therapy, class assistant	As above, plus care assistant, crèche worker, hotel work.
		Level 2 (L2)	4 GCSEs (A-C) Level 2 BTEC, NVQ		NVQ2, as above but a broader range

*English for Speakers of Other Languages

This issue aims to answer some Frequently Asked Questions about ESOL language learning.



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