

Saturday 25 January 2025 - 10.30am to 3.00pm.

The Ashling Hotel, Parkgate Street, Dublin 8, D08 P38N.

## Tips and strategies to enhance the learners' experience.

**10.00 Registration: tea and coffee.**

**10.30 Welcome and opening remarks.**

Deirdre Ryan, NALA Student Subcommittee.

**10.35 NALA update.**

Colleen Dube, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA).

**10.40 Critical literacy and the need for it.**

Dee Keating, Adult literacy Educator, Ballymun Adult Education Service.

**11.00 Understanding dyslexia.**

Joyce Gough, Adult Education Guidance Counsellor and Liz McHugh, Adult Literacy Organiser, City of Dublin Education and Training Board (ETB).

**11.20 Health literacy in the classroom.**

Edel Finan, Regional Literacy Coordinator, Waterford and Wexford ETB.

**11.40 Go to workshops.**

### 11.45 – 1.00 Morning workshops:

- a) **Critical literacy and the need for it** – Dee Keating, Ballymun Adult Education Service. **Note:** Please bring a device (laptop or smartphone) into this workshop.
- b) **Supporting tutors working with adult learners with dyslexia** – Joyce Gough and Liz McHugh, City of Dublin ETB.
- c) **Teaching mixed ability ESOL classes:** This workshop will consider how to take a differentiated approach in the ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) class, ensuring all levels, learning preferences and abilities remain engaged, motivated and experience success. Participants will leave with a resource pack with ESOL specific games, activities and tasks. – Gráinne Stafford and Laura Dwyer, ESOL Adult Literacy Organisers, Cork ETB.
- d) **Using technology to teach reading and writing** – Jenny Munyoro, Literacy and digital

literacy tutor, Kerry ETB. **Note:** Please bring a device (laptop or smartphone) into this workshop.

- e) **Health literacy in the classroom** - Edel Finan, Waterford and Wexford ETB.
- f) **Expanding language and literacy through continual ESOL learner engagement: A focus on resources for beginner (A1) level** – Angus O’Riordan, ESOL Trainer.

**1.00 Lunch.**

### **1.45 – 3.00 Afternoon workshops:**

- g) **Empowering learners: Harnessing personal stories to boost reading and writing skills.** This approach encourages tutors to listen to learners and to use their stories as resources (language experience approach) – Ester Mackey, Regional Literacy Coordinator and Mary Jo Kennedy, Adult Literacy Organiser, Tipperary ETB.  
**Note:** This workshop is aimed at tutors who may be new to literacy.
- h) **Using technology to teach reading and writing** – Jenny Munyoro, Literacy and digital literacy tutor, Kerry ETB.  
**Note:** Please bring a device (laptop or smartphone) into this workshop.
- i) **Assessment Café:** This workshop will examine how the processes of feedback and assessment can help learners identify their strengths and target areas that may need further support. In this workshop, we enter the ‘Assessment CAFÉ’ (Collaborative Assessment and Feedback Exchange), where tutors can sample courses from the ‘feedback menu,’ examine the concept of the ‘feedback bucket,’ and play ‘assessment snakes and ladders.’ – Sharon Murphy, Adult literacy tutor, Louth and Meath ETB.
- j) **Teaching ESOL literacy learners:** This workshop will take a practical approach to supporting ESOL literacy learners. The workshop will consider language experience, the comprehension-based approach, common literacy activities, how to use authentic materials and how to adapt higher level materials for ESOL literacy learners. Participants will leave with a ESOL literacy resource pack. – Gráinne Stafford and Laura Dwyer, ESOL Adult Literacy Organisers, Cork ETB.
- k) **Dealing with emotions around dyslexia:** Sometimes you may hear a learner say - ‘Why do I feel like I’m the stupidest one in the whole class?’ But in a world where NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) and MI5 (Military Intelligence, Section 5) recruit dyslexic staff for their divergent ways of thinking, why is it that some people with normal or high levels of intelligence continue to develop a lifelong belief that they are stupid? This workshop will explore the emotional fallout from dyslexia and how tutors can help to change feelings of inadequacy - Danielle Sheehy, Artist, illustrator and dyslexia facilitator.

- l) **Memory Techniques which raise self-confidence, assist with recalling text and improve the writing process, through visuals, association and organisation** – Tony Sweeney, Literacy and numeracy trainer.

**3.00pm Close.**

**Registration fee:** There is **no fee** for attending this conference. **We'd be delighted if you joined NALA as a member.**

**Note:** The **Ashling Hotel** is across the river from Heuston station. There is a small car park at the hotel, but it is often full. NALA can't cover the parking costs for participants. The 'Museum' LUAS stop is a two-minute walk from the hotel.