

Teaching Digital Literacy to Beginner Level Adults

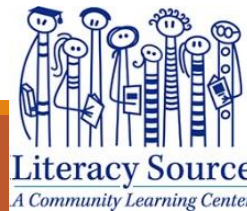
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Objectives

Participants will be able to:

- Define digital literacy
- Break down a specific goal/objective into attainable learning tasks
- Identify 2-3 best practices for working with adult learners in the context of digital literacy

What is digital literacy?

- What is digital literacy? What does it mean to be digitally literate?

Digital Literacy

Is the ability to locate, evaluate, communicate, create, and strategically use digital content across a range of digital tools and platforms for a variety of purposes.

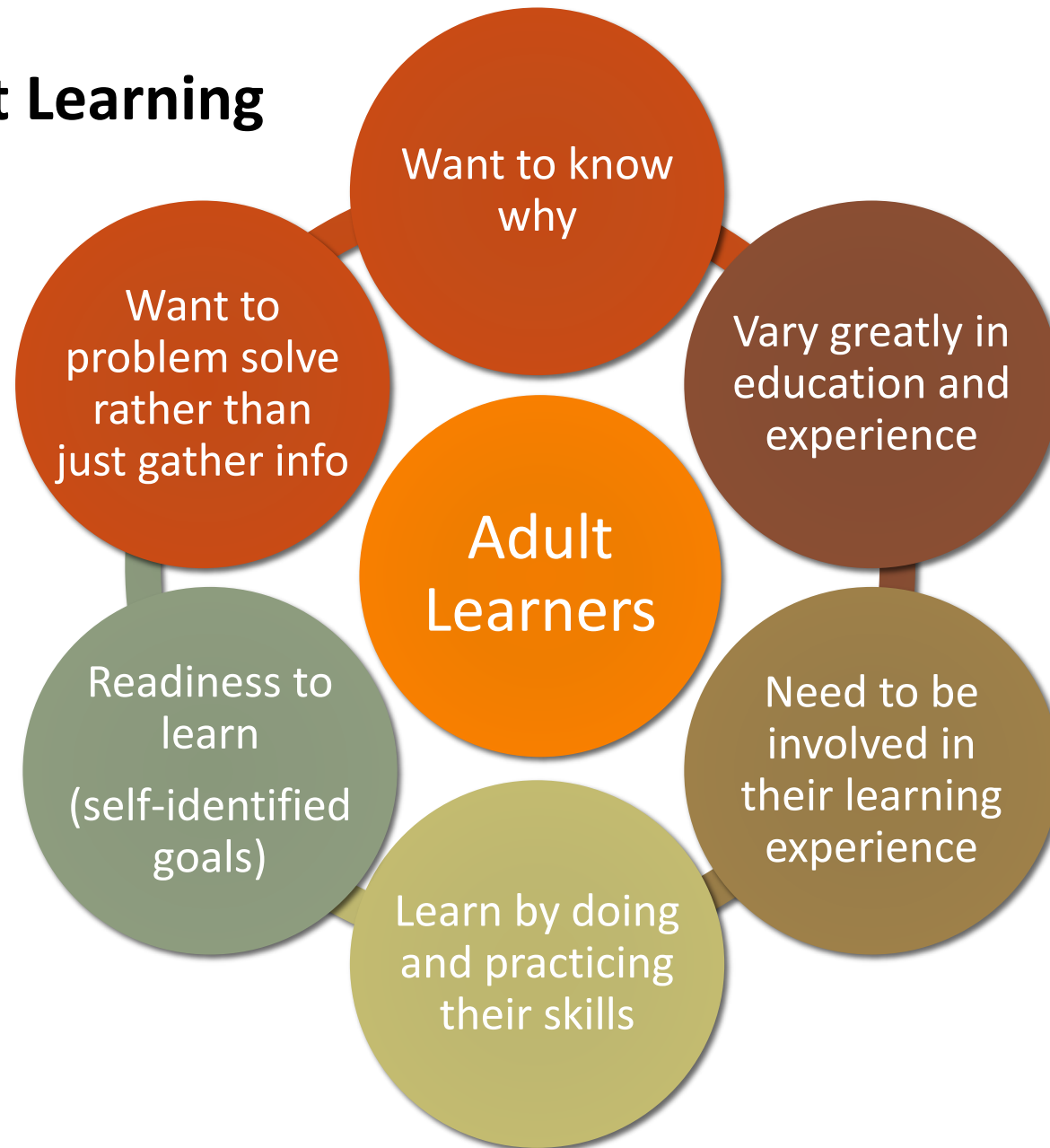
Experiences with Digital Literacy

- Have you taught or tutored digital literacy (past or present)?
- Who is your learner and what might their digital literacy needs be?

Scenario:

Genet is a 40 year old immigrant from Eritrea. She has lived in Seattle for 10 years and she works in the environmental services (cleaning & maintenance) department of a local hospital. Her spoken English is intermediate, but her writing and reading skills are more limited. She had a disrupted education and struggles with literacy in her first language, as well as English. Genet would like to learn how to use email because her boss at work said that soon, all employees will need to check their email regularly.

Principles of Adult Learning



Best Practices Self-Check

- I set objectives that are tailored to meet the needs/goals of my learner
- I always allow the learner to do all the touching/manipulating of their device; if I need to model something, I do it on my own device or make sure that I allow my learner to fully perform the task themselves after I have modeled it on their device
- When my student is learning new tech concepts or skills, I allow for multiple repetitions and opportunities for practice before offering alternative ways of performing the same task or moving on
- I allow wait time for my learner to answer or perform a task before prompting him/her
- I emphasize that it's ok to make a mistake or to not know something
- I allow my learner to perform tasks without doing his/her work for him/her
- I work to connect to and build on my learner's previous knowledge; I relate learning points to everyday situations and encourage the transfer of skills across different platforms and contexts.
- I encourage my student to actively participate by giving him/her ample opportunities to ask questions and express his/her ideas
- I demonstrate sensitivity to my learner's background and situation

Resources

FREE Online Learning - Computer Skills

- Typing - <https://www.typingclub.com/>
- Digital Learn - <https://training.digitallearn.org/>
- Northstar Digital Literacy Assessments - <https://www.digitalliteracyassessment.org/#cta-module-launch>
- St. Paul Public Library Northstar Learning Guide - <http://guides.sppl.org/northstar/Home>
- Seattle Public Library Online Learning - <https://www.spl.org/online-resources/online-learning>
- GCF Global - <https://edu.gcfglobal.org/en/subjects/tech/>
- Learn My Way - <https://www.learnmyway.com/>

There are also a lot of free online learning resources available for specific content areas or subjects, such as English language, GED, etc.