

Tui Tuia

Newsletter of Literacy Aotearoa

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Ngā mihi mahana... greetings to you all.

Small group learning fits well with the Literacy Aotearoa kaupapa of *ako* (sometimes teacher, sometimes learner), and provides a powerful learning environment. This issue of Tui Tuia focuses on small group learning with a feature on Literacy Taupō, a group discussion forum from the recent Managers' Hui and links to websites with ideas for working with adult learners in small groups.

In 2012, Literacy Aotearoa began work on several new programmes together with Te Puni Kōkiri. (Refer Tui Tuia, Issue 8, 2012). One of the programmes focuses on whānau-based literacy programmes to address bi-literacy needs. This involves Literacy Aotearoa tutors working closely with Kaiwhakaako (teachers of Te Reo Māori) from Te Ataarangi to co-deliver the 20-week programme. The target learners are adults who want to learn Te Reo Māori and have Literacy, Language and Numeracy (LLN) needs. The Kaiwhakaako provides Te Reo Māori acquisition support and Literacy Aotearoa tutors address the LLN needs of the whānau. Five Poupou (Literacy Aotearoa member providers) are involved in delivering these whānau literacy programmes.



Literacy Taupō - Whānau Literacy in action

Literacy Taupō began delivering their Whānau Literacy programme early this year, on site at a local primary school, to parents and grandparents of children who attend the school. The programme began with 12 learners who wanted 'to kōrero Māori' and to develop their literacy skills. Face-to-face learning takes place once a week, in a four-hour session.

Course content

Learning sessions are divided into two hours of LLN with Literacy Taupō tutor Sarah Hepi Te Huia and two hours of Te Reo Māori facilitated by Nepia White, a Te Ataarangi Kaiwhakaako. A few of the learners knew single words and a few phrases in Te Reo Māori prior to enrolling. 13 weeks into the course, learners are participating confidently in the group in both English and Te Reo Māori. They have all learnt mihi whakatau and karakia and are using Te Reo Māori phrases when at home. One mother says she is reading more to her children at home.

All of the whānau learners have responded positively to the tactile nature of learning Te Reo Māori using rākau, and continue to develop their knowledge of Te



Cuisenaire rods = 'rākau'

Ao Māori. "They are just loving the Reo," says Claire Northcroft of Literacy Taupō. "Our participants are also finding that they are consciously deciding to use Te Reo Māori in certain situations around their home, in preference to using English. For example when disciplining their tamariki, they find it much gentler to say 'turituri', instead of what they would normally say in English. As a consequence, learners report that there is greater calm in their homes."

A range of local guest speakers have exposed learners to new opportunities and filled their kete with knowledge.

...continued overleaf





Literacy Taupō continued...

Information gained from sessions on health and wellbeing, cultural knowledge ([Tūwharetoa Cultural Knowledge Project](#), Māori Land Court), and career pathways (Careers New Zealand, Open Wānanga) has been informative for learners and has enabled them to 'spread the word' to other whānau members. After these sessions learners have been developing their research skills and computer literacy by seeking related information online.

In the coming weeks, the whānau group will learn about financial literacy and KiwiSaver (Taupo Budget Advisory Service). Local health practitioners will speak to learners about the impact of diabetes on whānau and tangata whaiora / mental well health. The whānau group will also visit a toxicologist to hear about the dangers of using synthetic cannabinoids.

Location and retention

Working on location at the local primary school has had many benefits. Generational learning is taking place and is visible to all involved.

“Children do poke their noses in to see their parents and their nannies doing their mahi. They're an inspiration to their tamariki,” says Claire.

The school has generously provided the school hall for learning sessions and another room that is used as a crèche. Learners' tamariki are cared for by a qualified caregiver, to enable them to focus fully on their own learning.

Learner attendance and participation have been successful with 8 of the 12 learners attending regularly and consistently. Sadly the challenges of 'real life' have intervened and four learners are no longer attending due to genuine reasons of sickness of whānau members, and employment commitments.

Learners for this roopū are all parents and caregivers of tamariki attending the school. The school has been fully supportive and encouraging of

the programme, as they in turn benefit from having whānau members who participate more in their children's learning, and are then more inclined to be involved with the school and its activities.

In summary

The whānau-based bi-literacy programme has been received very positively by learners and their whānau. While the programme still has a number of weeks to run, learners' goals of becoming more proficient in Te Reo Māori, and developing their literacy skills, are being achieved. Additional gains have been reported by learners, who describe using what they have learnt in whānau interactions at home.



Photo:

<http://www.teataarangi.org.nz/>

Glossary - Papakupu

karakia	prayer, blessing
kaiwhakaako	teacher of Te Reo Māori
mahi	work
mihi whakatau	speech of greeting
rākau	Cuisenaire rods used to teach Te Reo Māori
roopū	group
tamariki	children
Te Ao Māori	the Māori world
Te Ataarangi	An organisation that teaches Te Reo Māori http://www.teataarangi.org.nz/
Tūwharetoa	Ngati Tūwharetoa, an iwi located in the central North Island.
tangata whai ora	mental well health
turituri	shh..., "hush"
whānau	family



Recent research has highlighted the benefits for adult literacy learners of participating in small group learning*. Small group learning offers opportunities for:

- Ako
- Tuakana / teina
- Whakawhanaungatanga
- Shared Experience
- Networking
- Working together
- Resolution
- Critical thinking
- Critical reflection
- Participation
- Interaction
- Balance of Power
- Empowerment
- Ideas
- Real life
- Personalised content

Small group learning

- Positive and effective learning
- Whānau / Family / community +++
- Tutors (new and experienced) ↗ PD
- Local needs: ↑ ♀ ♂
- Best practice
- ≈\$ or ↓\$ → Efficiency: \$ + ⌚ = ↗

Group Learning Provision

One discussion forum at the Managers' Hui, held this month, focussed on group learning. Attendees identified what small group learning can 'look like', the perceived or real difficulties and barriers that may be associated with group learning (for learners, tutors and managers), and ways to overcome those challenges.

Keys to success included: appropriate professional development for tutors, a good orientation for learners, and scheduling learning sessions to suit the local community. While the benefits for learners were many, managers also spoke of the rewards for the tutor, and the obvious economic benefits of group provision.

The forum closed with some short video clips from 'NALA' of learners sharing their experiences of small group learning (refer next page for links).

* Research: 'He whānau mātau, he whānau ora' (2011); 'LLN. Connecting research to practice in the Tertiary Sector' (2011); 'Organisational factors that affect delivery of adult LLN provision. A review of international literature' (2009); all located: <http://www.literacy.org.nz/research-submissions-etc.php#2011>



Ngā Poupou Managers' Hui, Auckland 03/04/13

Helen Jansen (Literacy North Otago), Will Monk (Literacy Whangarei), Karen Thin (Literacy South Canterbury), Colleen McMurchy-Pilkington (Adult Literacy Tamaki Auckland), Mel Tarawhiti (Read Write Plus), Ruth Dalzell (Literacy Feilding) and Denise Johnson (Read Write Plus).

NCLANA - Instructional Approaches

The resources section of the NCLANA website offers some instructional strategies for tutors of small groups and one-to-one learners, including:

- [Language experience](#)
- [Shared reading](#)
- [Shared writing](#)
- [Generative words](#)

"Instructional approaches are the ways in which tutors organise instruction. They include group and individual approaches. ...The approaches described in this section are particularly effective for learners who are beginning to develop literacy skills. The first three approaches (language experience, shared reading and shared writing) can be used with groups or in one-on-one sessions. The fourth approach (generative words) relies on group work to generate ideas." [Read more...](#)

<http://www.literacyandnumeracyforadults.com/resources/354614>

Learners speak - NALA (Ireland)

The National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA) in Ireland, has produced a number of video clips to promote their services. The stories the learners share are very similar to those we hear here in New Zealand, but with an Irish accent... Share with learners and tutors to inspire and motivate.

Group Literacy (1:54)

'Every day is a learning day.' A learner talks about his experience of being part of a literacy group

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Ab40Qi3S-w>



Take on learning. Take on life (7:46)

A number of learners speak of their experiences since enrolling in adult literacy and numeracy education.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y6v03qT1JB4>

Literacy Campaign advertisement (0:30)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XJF35vRSRpA>

Learning Resources:

NALA also has 30+ clips that can be used to assist learners and tutors with specific goals, such as how to read the newspaper, reading your bills, how to use a dictionary, sound out letters, read the time, fill out forms; and in numeracy: working out percentages, averages, volume, how to read pie charts, and more...

<http://www.youtube.com/user/Takethefirststepnala/videos>

2013 Calendar of Events

Te Heke Tuarua / Region Two

9-11 Haratua (May) 2013

Host: Read Write Plus (Upper Hutt)

Te Heke Tuatoru / Region Three

16-18 Haratua (May) 2013

Host: Southern Adult Literacy (Invercargill)

Adult Literacy Practitioners Association ALPA

23-25 Haratua (May) 2013 [more...](#)

Te Heke Tuatahi / Region One

28-30 Haratua (May) 2013

Host: He Waka Matauranga (Papatoetoe, Auckland)

ACE Conference

Confident Communities Hāpori Tū Rangatira.

18-20 Pipiri (June) 2013 [more...](#)

National Centre for Literacy and Numeracy for Adults (NCLANA) Symposium

27-28 Pipiri (June) 2013 (Hamilton) [more...](#)

Te Hui ā Tau & National Planning Hui

17-19 Hōngongoi (July) 2013

Whanganui-a-Tara (Wellington)

Adult Learners' Week - He Tangata Mātauranga

2-8 Mahuru (September) 2013

Travelling Books Launch, Auckland

3 Mahuru (September) 2013

International Literacy Day

Sunday, 8 Mahuru (September) 2013



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