Understanding Students’ Barriers

Presenter, Cristhian Barcelos
Bloomfield Public Library
90 Broad Street, 2nd Floor Boardroom
Bloomfield, NJ 07003
Thursday, October 15, 2019, 1:00-2:30 pm

Presenter’s biography:

Executive Director for LVA, Essex & Passaic Counties brings his successful leadership skills to the organization. With his hands-on management style, he has been an integral part of the LVA administrative team since 2001. His expertise includes strategic planning, programming, grant writing and reporting, negotiations and technology. Cristhian also serves as the Director of the New Community Corporation – Adult Learning Center in Newark and as Past-President of New Jersey Association for Lifelong Learning. Prior to coming to LVA, he was the former Managing Director of Uruguay’s second largest modeling agency. His strong commitment to literacy is further exemplified by being a board member of NJALL and the Literacy Committees for Essex and Passaic Counties. He holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Labor University of Uruguay in Montevideo and an associate’s degree in graphic and web design.

Workshop topics:

- Students’ main barriers
- Supporting studies:
  - Beder 1994
  - Pickard 2013
  - Jacobson 2013
- Resources
- Open discussion
Understanding Students’ Barriers
(December 12th, 2019, 1-2:30pm)
by Cristhian Barcelos

Why did my student stop attending the tutoring session?

English for Speakers of Other Language (ESOL) and Basic Literacy (BL) students regularly face barriers that prevent them from attending their tutoring sessions. Let’s discuss these barriers:

- Family crisis (home country, or here)
- Jobs (hours change, jobs change, overnight jobs)
- School (children’s school; their own school)
- Health (chronic diseases are prevalent with certain populations)
- Unstable housing
- Transportation (missing a bus; car trouble; ride falls through)
- Financial
- Childcare
- Family pressures
- Religious holidays and celebrations
- Library is closed due to weather or other emergencies
- Terrorism in the news
- Visits to relatives in home countries
- Time constraints

Why isn’t my student advancing?

Tutors are sometimes frustrated when their students seem to be “stuck” at their current level of English proficiency. Let’s discuss some barriers to linguistic advancement:

- Low educational background
- Few English language interactions to practice the language
- Shyness or discomfort speaking; concerned about embarrassment
- Feeling overwhelmed
- Social anxiety when speaking English
- No one to translate
- Relying too much on the teacher or a stronger student in class
- Not putting enough time into study and practice outside of tutoring
- Speaking in their native tongue during class
- Inability to complete enough hours to show growth
- Culture shock
It is a well known fact that our adult students are confronted with many barriers that preclude them from achieving their goals and while we can’t address all of their needs through our program, we hope to at least provide the tools and resources needed so they can have a better chance. Please take full advantage of the resources listed on this website and let us know if a listing doesn’t work or if you would like to suggest a service that might help others.

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**Education**

- Transportation
- Programs & Testing
- Credentials Evaluation
- Scholarships

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**Financial**

- Secured Credit Card
- Tax Preparation
- Housing

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**Health**

- Insurance
- Clinics
- Dental
- Eye Care
- Mental Health & Addiction
- Nutrition
- Screenings

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**Immigration**

- Legal Services
- Information & Advocacy

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**Special Needs**

- Transportation
- State Agencies
- National Organizations
- Assistive Services
- Technology-Based Learning

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*LVA, Essex & Passaic Counties, provides links to other organizations as a benefit to the adult community. LVA is not responsible for the privacy practices or content of any linked site, nor does a link imply an affiliation with or an endorsement of the linked organization.*