

Adult Literacy Tutors Speak Out with Participatory Action Research  
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The purpose of this study was to identify a set of adult learning principles, practices, or professional development strategies for adult literacy tutors.

An extensive literature review indicated researcher focus is not on the tutor's needs.

The research framework was formed with participatory action research and adult learning education. The researcher collaborated with a chapter of Friends of Literacy through Libraries' Board of Directors' members at the Broward County Library in Broward County, Florida. Approximately 50 adult literacy tutors attended three in-service tutoring workshops at three different demographic area library branches from January 29 through May 21, 2005. The main goal: eliciting information about tutors' needs through questionnaires, focus groups, and interactive training.

The research verified that tutors voices are silent. The study indicated: 1) Educators respond to adult literacy tutors' voices by identifying a set of best instructional practices for the adult learner; 2) Continued cooperation with trainer and adult literacy tutor learner that employs more active listening and probing questions is needed; 3) Small and large focus group interviews with focus group questions centered on tutor as teacher and student to elicit the most creative techniques are needed; 4) Using surveys and questionnaires before, during, and after in-service training workshops are essential; 5) Tutors should be exposed to new educational ideas and theories so the new information regarding adult learning is accepted readily and not rejected. Adult literacy tutors say they need more practical activities so they can apply this new knowledge, create their own ideas, and later transfer their new knowledge.

The findings suggest that a participatory action learning research model and adult education principles and practices are vital for reflecting on past and future actions. Adult literacy tutors desire and need to have a voice. Future research studies are proposed.