

ABLE News

Volume 13, Issue 6

July 2009

ABLE (Adult Basic and Literacy Education) is part of a statewide program that provides free instruction for adults who wish to improve their basic academic skills and/or prepare to take the GED (General Equivalence Diploma) tests. Students study reading, math, and language arts. There are also lessons in science, social studies, life skills, employability skills, and basic computer skills.

Joe's Blarney

We have had a successful year with another 82 individuals getting their GED during the 2008/2009 program year with ABLE. Our staff have been busy doing assessment testing, goal setting, and following up with course work to make sure our adult learners stay on task and reach their goals. We have many individuals coming back to us once they receive their GED and they do job search with us, get their resumes and, in some instances, they go on to post-secondary school. Thanks for a job well done to our ABLE teachers.

This summer our staff has the opportunity for some professional development. We have a one-day conference this summer in Columbus with the Career Technology programs throughout Ohio. We also have a one-day workshop at Ohio University in August. Our staff will be able to mingle with other professionals who work with literacy and find out about the latest resources available to teachers of adult literacy.

Please remember to make referrals to us as this is one of the main avenues in which we get many of our GED students. Thanks to all the Social Program Coordinators and staff at The Work Station for keeping our attendance up.

Joe

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The Work Station
will be closed Friday, July 3
for the 4th of July holiday.





Neighborhood News

The GED tests will be given at Hocking College on the following dates: July 15 and 16. The test will begin at 9:45 A.M. each day and end about 2:00 P.M. If you have taken the test before, you must call the tester, Jennifer Yanity (740-753-7102), to register for and schedule the test. It is suggested that you allow 2 weeks for the registration process.

Take time for a special summer vacation.



Whether it is a day or two or ten, it will be good for you and your children to get away from the every day and do something special.

New Veterans' Representative Ed Allshouse, Veterans Intensive Services Coordinator for area 14.

I am a Vietnam Vet, 1 1/2 tours from 1967 to 1968. I am married with 3 children and 11 grandchildren. My wife and I are avid campers and horse trail riders. I retired from E.I. DuPont with 28 1/2 years, then taught Computer & Office skills at Pickaway Ross CTC for 8 years before taking this job. I was assigned to Jackson & Gallia counties for 2 years before being sent here.

Athens County ABLE Program

Main Lab

Location: The Work Station
70 N. Plains Road, Suite C, The Plains
(Country Corners Shopping Center)
Hours: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 P.M.
Wednesday - 8:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.
Friday - 8:00 A.M. - 1 P.M.
Phone: (740) 797-1405 or
toll free 1-877-351-0405
Fax: 797-3105

Nelsonville Lab

Location: Tri-County Career Center
Smith-Parkins Building, Room 114
Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
1:00 - 4:30 P.M.
Phone: (740) 753-5400
1-800-637-6508 ext. 4400

Partners at The Work Station

Each month, representatives of several local agencies come to The Work Station so that they will be easily available to Work Station clients and other county residents. If you wish to speak to one of these partners, please come in. Appointments are nice but not required.

Every Day
8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Job Services Customer Services
Representatives
(Brian Lent)

Tuesday, Thursday
By Appointment Only
Veteran's Representative
Ed Allshouse

Tri-County Adult Career Center
(Tina Warthman)
(Schedule varies. Call The Work Station to
schedule an appointment.)

Mature Services
Senior Employment Program
Diane Boster
Call 1-866-734-2301
for information or appointment

Parents' Page

Are your children home alone more than ever during the summer? Do you worry about what they are doing on the computer? Are you interested in learning about some things you can do to protect your children? Read this for some ideas about where to start.

Filtering and Blocking

We are often asked to explain the difference between filtering & blocking software. Since most major software products do both, as well as other things, the difference isn't important. It is important to understand how they work, though...In addition, few parents understand that they can purchase software that tracks where their children go online, while still permitting them free online access. We'll discuss this too...

Blocking Software

Blocking software is software that uses a "bad site" list. It blocks access to sites on the list. Some of the software companies allow you to customize the list, by adding or removing sites from that list. Other software companies try to keep the sites on their list secret, & don't permit parents to add or remove sites from the list. Blocked site lists need to be updated regularly. Some software companies allow you to download updated sites daily. Others may charge for updates after a certain period, & may update their lists less frequently. No matter how frequently they are updated, however, the number of web sites published each day far exceeds the ability of the software companies to review the sites, & categorize them for "bad site" lists. Out of approximately 1.5 million separate web sites in existence (each web site may contain 2 or more separate webpages), only about half have been reviewed by all child protection software companies. The gap widens daily. "Bad sites" will inevitably get through.

Filtering Software

Filtering software uses certain keywords. It blocks sites containing these keywords, alone or in context with other keywords. Software that uses standalone keywords may often filter out harmless sites, because of the inclusion of innocent words within those sites. "Butt" may be a preselected keyword, & software that doesn't filter in context, would block access to sites containing the word "button." "Sex" as a filtered term may result in the blocking of the latest web site for "sextuplets," or "Sussex," England. The biggest problem with using keyword filtering is that innocent sites may be blocked. In addition, some web site operators have learned to get around the filtering by misspelling the typical keywords.

As with the "bad site" lists, the lists of keywords used by the filtering software should be customizable by the parent, & every parent should be able to see which terms are filtered. Some software permits parents to select which kind of sites it wants to filter...such as tobacco products, or sexual content. Selecting the category of content enables a certain list of keywords unique to that category of sites, such as cigarettes, tobacco, & words that graphically describe sexual activities or selected vulgarities. One parent might choose to filter drug-related sites, while another may not. It should be up to the parent, not the software manufacturer.

Outgoing Filtering.

No...this doesn't mean you have an extra friendly software program (that's cyberspace talk for "grin" & means you're supposed to smile at my brilliant humor). It means that certain information that a child may want to share with others can't be shared. Information such as her name, address or telephone number can be programmed into the software, & every time she tries to send it to someone online, it merely shows up as "XXX." Even with kids who know & follow your rules, this is a terrific feature, since sometimes, even the best kids forget. In my opinion, sharing personal information online with strangers is far more dangerous to children than seeing a naked body, or someone smoking cigarettes.

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Kid's Page

Star-Spangled Wavers



Scissors

Pieces of red, white, and blue felt
Red, white, and blue ribbons (available at local craft stores)

Tacky glue
3/8-inch dowel

1. Cut a pair of 6-inch stars from red, white, or blue felt.
2. Cut a slightly smaller pair (ours were 4 inches across) from a different color of felt, and an even smaller pair (ours were 3 inches across) from the third color.
3. Use tacky glue to affix the stars to each other. Glue together the 2 sets of stars, sandwiching a 3/8-inch dowel between them.
4. Allow the glue to dry, then finish the baton by tying a length of red, white, and blue ribbon around the dowel.

Hints:

1. You may use construction paper or craft foam with adhesive backing instead of felt.
2. You may use kabob sticks, pencils, or straws instead of dowels.
3. Cookie cutters make good patterns for drawing stars.

Can-do Stilts



Puncture-style can opener

2 (29-ounce) cans of tomato sauce or other liquid

Acrylic paint in white, red, and blue

Paintbrush

Star shapes cut from household sponges

Disposable pans or plates

Tape

2 (5-foot) lengths of cotton or nylon clothesline

Skewer

1. Puncture a can in opposite spots on its side. Drain it by blowing into one hole to force the sauce out of the other. Repeat with the second can. Wash both cans under running water to clean them, inside and out. Remove their labels and let them dry.
2. Paint both cans white. When they're dry, dip dampened sponge stars into pans or plates of red and blue paint. Apply the stamps to the cans and let them dry.
3. For the handles, tape one end of a length of clothesline to a skewer. Push it through one hole and out the other, as shown. Stand on the can, holding the line's ends. Knot the line at hip level and trim. Repeat for the other stilt.

Student Page

Strategies for Math Problem Solving

The key to solving math word problems is to have a plan or strategy, which works in any math word problem solving situation. For students having problems with math word problems, the following 12 tips are provided for helping them become good problem solvers.

- *Read the problem carefully looking for clues and important information. Write down the clues, underline, or highlight the clues.
- *If necessary, rewrite the problem to help find these clues.
- *Look for clues to determine which math operation is needed to solve the problem, for example addition, subtraction, etc. Look for key words like sum, difference, product, perimeter, area, etc. They lead to the operation needed to solve the problem.
- *Look for what is needed to solve the problem, for example: how many are left, the total will be, everyone gets red, everyone gets one of each, etc.
- *Use variable symbols, such as "X" for missing information.
- *Eliminate all non-essential information by drawing a line through distracting information.
- *Draw sketches, drawings, and models to see the problem.
- *Is the word problem similar to previous work, if so how was it solved?
- *Develop a plan based on the information determined to be important for solving the problem.
- *Carry out the plan using the math operations which were determined would find the answer.
- *Does the answer seem reasonable? If it does then it is probably ok - if not then check the work.
- *Work the problem in reverse or backwards, starting with the answer to see if you wind up with your original problem.

Read more: http://homeschooling.suite101.com/article.cfm/12_tips_for_solving_word_problems#ixzz0HwqA3TQX&C

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Monitoring & Tracking.

Some software allows parents to track where their children go online, how much time they spend online, how much time they spend on the computer (off-line, such as playing games) & even allows parents to control what times of day their children can use the computer. Many parents who find filtering or blocking distasteful, especially with older children & teens, find monitoring satisfies their safety concerns. They can know, for sure, whether their children are following their rules. This is particularly helpful when both parents are working outside of the home, or with working single-parents, who want to make sure their children aren't spending all of their time on the computer. They merely set a limit on the amount of time the child can use the computer & often "lock their children out" of the computer until they can get home from work. Not all of these products, however, let the child know they are tracking them. I think that parents should tell their children about the software. It fosters trust.

This information is from wiredkids.com. Go to this site to find more internet safety information.

????????? Kim's Brain Teaser ??????????

Recently, Snow White's seven dwarfs met up with three of their friends and went to the cinema to see Bambi. From the clues below, can you determine the order in which they stood in the ticket queue?

Grumpy was in front of Dopey. Stumpy was behind Sneezy and Doc. Doc was in front of Droopy and Happy. Sleepy was behind Stumpy, Smelly and Happy. Happy was in front of Sleepy, Smelly and Bashful. Bashful was behind Smelly, Droopy and Sleepy. Sneezy was in front of Dopey. Smelly was in front of Grumpy, Stumpy and Sneezy. Dopey was in front of Droopy. Sleepy was in front of Grumpy and Bashful. Dopey was behind Sneezy, Doc and Sleepy. Stumpy was in front of Dopey. Smelly was behind Doc.

Candy's Kitchen

May these colorful recipes brighten your Fourth of July celebration.

Red, White & Blueberry Fruit Salad

1/4 cup fresh lime juice
 1/4 cup honey
 2 tablespoons chopped fresh mint
 3 cups fresh blueberries
 1 quart fresh strawberries, hulled and halved
 3 medium apples, peeled and cut into 1-inch chunks

In a large bowl, whisk together the lime juice, honey, and mint. Add all of the fruit and toss to combine. Let the fruit salad set for 15 minutes to allow the flavors to blend. Serves about 8.



Almost S'mores

1 graham cracker 1 tbsp. chocolate frosting
 Break each cracker into four sections and spread frosting on two. Place the other two crackers on top to make sandwiches. Allow to soften overnight in an airtight container, if desired. Makes 2 Almost S'mores.

Also good with vanilla icing colored for a holiday - red, white, and blue for the Fourth of July.



Frozen Berry-Orange Bombe

3 cups strawberry or raspberry sorbet, softened
 2 cups low-fat or light chocolate ice cream
 1 tablespoon orange liqueur or orange juice
 2 cups fresh raspberries, blueberries, blackberries, and/or strawberries
 Fresh mint sprigs (optional)

1. Line a 2-quart bowl with plastic wrap. Press sorbet on bottom and two-thirds up the sides of the bowl to form a shell. Cover and freeze at least 1 hour.

2. Soften chocolate ice cream. Gently stir in orange liqueur or orange juice. Spoon into the center of the sorbet shell, pressing down to remove air bubbles. Cover and freeze for at least 4 hours.

3. Unmold frozen mixture. Remove plastic wrap. Serve with berries. If desired, garnish with mint. Makes 10 servings.

You could use vanilla ice cream and garnish with blueberries for the 4th of July.

Answers for Kim's Brain Teasers

Doc

Happy

Smelly

Sneezy

Stumpy

Sleepy

Grumpy

Dopey

Droopy

Bashful