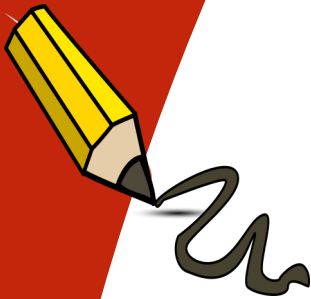




July 2020

# Tutor Tips

A monthly publication of the Moore County Literacy Council



Dear Tutors, Volunteers, and  
lovers of literacy,

**Welcome to the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year!** Although we've been working around restrictions, extended safety measures, and a temporary suspension of in-house services, we continue to plan and prepare for an exciting "new year" here at MCLC! Since I joined the literacy council in April, it has been non-stop with re-organizing summer programs, discussing a re-opening protocol, and transitioning to new roles and new faces.

I am excited to get to know each of you better as we *s-l-o-w-l-y* start to re-open our doors to students and eventually tutor pairs (*see page 2*). As for me, I worked previously in the non-profit community at Communities In Schools of Brunswick County and Communities In Schools of Moore County (now Moore Buddies Mentoring), and I am excited to return to a community needs-driven vocation after four years in Public Education.

I have talked with many of you already (look out- I'll be calling you!) and I have thoroughly enjoyed hearing your stories and experiencing your passion. I hear it in the way you describe your student, the creative ways you have tried to connect over this very strange spring, and in your concern for their general well-being. **You are amazing!**

Please take just a minute and read over this newsletter. My goal for this publication is to keep you informed, offer a tutoring tip or two (*see pages 2 & 3*), and share your successes with others.

If you have any questions or just want to say, "Hi", please give me a call at 910.692.5954!

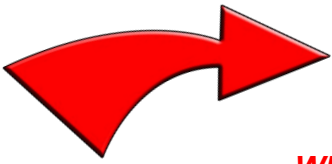
Stay safe and have a great July!  
~Susan

## Welcome New Tutors!

Doug Champion, Kathleen &  
Robert DeGrange, Jean  
Franke, Lois Hall, Kathleen  
McChristensen & Armeia  
Medlock



FYI... July 4th falls on a Saturday this year, so many banks and business may be observing it on Friday the 3rd!



## Writing prompt for July.....

### “Fireworks”



#### *Why does my student have to write?*

Many students, as you probably have figured out by now, do NOT enjoy writing, even a “simple” paragraph. The risk of failure is just too much!

There is not sufficient vocabulary to have it “sound” right, punctuation marks are intimidating (*when the heck do I use a semi-colon??*) and forget all that sentence structure stuff! But writing IS essential!

Prior to the nineteenth century, reading and writing were not necessary to herd sheep or craft a hot piece of iron into an axe. But the 21st Century is laden with words, phrases, instructions, how-to books, job applications, test questions, e-mails, school communications! Someone may **survive** in today’s society, but it is hard to **thrive** without strong reading and writing skills.

#### Here’s some tips worth trying this month with your student:

1. Use a prompt (*oh, look! Susan provided one already!*) A prompt lessens the stress of creating a topic but allows plenty of room for creativity.
2. Visualize the prompt first. Have your student explain what they see in their mind’s eye. As they describe it to you, jot down the key words they stress, get excited about, and are meaningful to them.
3. Take your student sky-diving. Okay, not literally, but give them the pencil and let them “free-fall”: create sentences based on those key words– just putting pencil to paper at this point. Remind them to write what they “see”. Making writing mistakes is inevitable, but stay with them and encourage them to keep going! Let them become confident with the motion of the pen!
4. Edit together. Once the paragraph is finished and you two are “safely on the ground”, go through each sentence and explain/teach grammar, sentence structure, etc. Let your student do the corrections! But ye be warned: DO NOT GRADE IT with red circles and x’s! This could potentially trigger bad school memories for them! Instead, point out where they did remember to capitalize a letter or add a period!

A completed paragraph builds confidence and self-esteem. But if your student is reluctant or stressed, break it down: The beauty of a monthly writing prompt is that *you can spread it out over the entire MONTH!* one week visualize and get key words; next week write the rough draft (free-fall); the next week make corrections! And Viola! It’s done!

***I look forward to your feed-back and how this technique helped! Have a great session!***

***Don’t forget to share the July paragraphs with Susan!***

***We use our student writing samples for a number of things!***

Introducing...

## The HOMOPHONE!

One of the biggest problems with literacy education is limited vocabulary. That's where the **HOMOPHONE** comes in handy! Every month I will have a few **HOMOPHONES** for you to introduce to your student. Spend just a couple minutes each session on these same words- have them create sentences, identify, word puzzle, or whatever works for you!



### Homophones for July:



Pear



Pair



Payer



Ate



Eight



(Sorry about the "iffy" dates – it's hard to set a concrete date for anything right now!)

July 27-August 8, 2020: Summer Reading Stations across the county

*\*New Dates\** Please visit our website for more information! There are still ways to volunteer and/or donate needed items!

August/September (date TBA): \*New\* One-to-One Tutor Training!

Spread the word! Know someone wanting to get involved? Call the office for more info at 910.692. 5954!

Late August/September (date TBA): Back-to-Tutoring!

Hopefully, we will be able to re-open the center for tutoring- as soon as I know I will pass it along!

***FYI...** We are using this "down time" to **update** some of our forms in an effort to be more efficient, cut down on paper and printing costs, and make date collection a little easier!*



Do you have extra birthday cards? We'll gladly take them off your hands! We LOVE to send birthday wishes to our tutors & students!