

## What is Literacy?

Literacy is the ability to develop and communicate understanding in a variety of ways, including speaking, listening, reading, writing and viewing.



## Supporting Literacy at Every Age

Adults who are developing literacy skills benefit a great deal from involvement by families and community members. There are a number of simple, but important, things families and community members can do to support literacy development with adults.

[www.maine.gov/doe/literacy-for-me](http://www.maine.gov/doe/literacy-for-me)



## What is *Literacy for ME*?

*Literacy for ME* is a statewide effort led by the Maine Department of Education with involvement by community partners to help all Maine citizens develop strong literacy skills.

## How to Get Involved

**If you would like to be involved with *Literacy for ME*, here are some things you can do.**

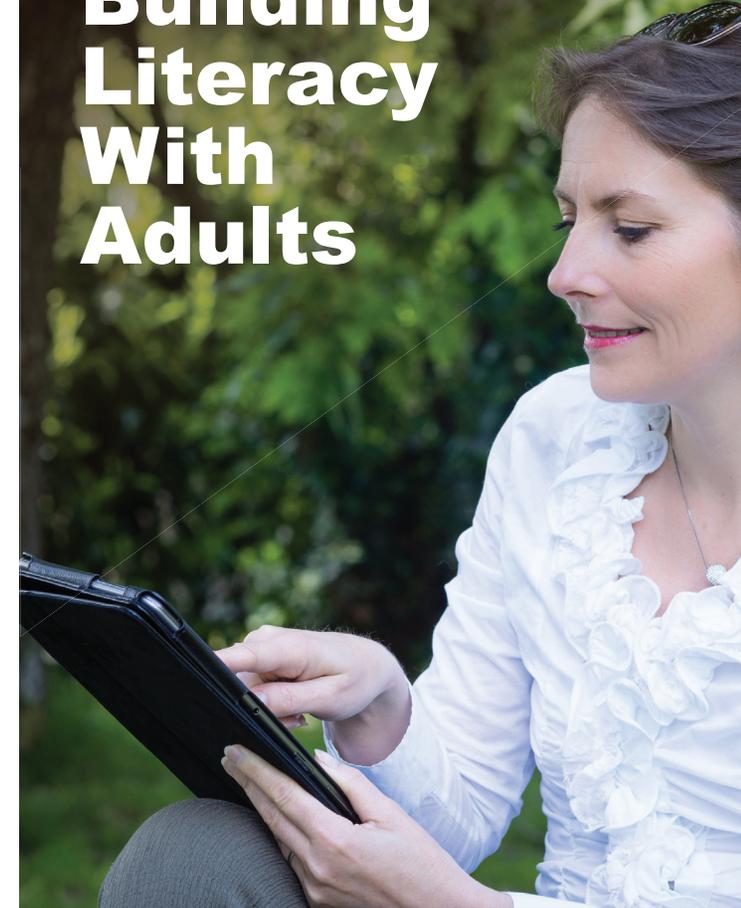
- Share this brochure with family and friends. Encourage them to support literacy as well.
- Visit the *Literacy for ME* website for more literacy resources - [www.maine.gov/doe/literacy-for-me](http://www.maine.gov/doe/literacy-for-me)
- Contact the Maine Department of Education for additional information at 207-624-6600.



## Contact Your Local Partner

Insert your local contact information here

# Tips for Building Literacy With Adults



Adult Literacy: Ages 18 and Up



An Initiative of the Maine Department of Education  
[www.maine.gov/doe/literacy-for-me](http://www.maine.gov/doe/literacy-for-me)

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# Adult Literacy

## Ages 18 and Up

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Adult life requires the use of literacy skills in many areas. In addition to completing everyday tasks like reading directions and responding to email, adults need powerful literacy skills to hold well-paying jobs and to participate fully in their communities. Family and community members can help by providing opportunities for adult learners to improve their literacy skills.

### **Support adult learners by encouraging conversation.**

- Organize social events in your community and reach out to adult learners.
- Make reading a social activity. Start or join a book club with an adult learner, either in person or online.
- Provide opportunities for English learners to practice conversation.
- Support vocabulary building. Play games such as Scrabble, Boggle and Scattergories and invite others to join you.

### **Provide adults with a wide range of opportunities to build reading skills.**

- Any reading is good reading. Newspapers, blogs, graphic novels, magazines, loan documents and teacher notes count.
- Suggest that adult learners practice by reading to children.
- Encourage adults to listen to audio books while reading along. This is an excellent way to learn.
- Recommend places for adults to get more assistance if they need it. Literacy Volunteers of America is an excellent resource with groups throughout Maine.

### **Encourage adult writers by offering safe and comfortable ways to practice.**

- Exchange notes or emails with an adult learner yourself. Ask to exchange written recipes.
- Use labels to identify familiar items and help English learners learn new words. Offer to help someone in your community create labels for things in their home.
- Help adults use technology as a tool for writing.