



Building Community Through Language

English Connection

Marion, Indiana

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Supporting Grant County Immigrants

English Connection is a not-for-profit, community-based English as a Second Language (ESL) tutoring program for adults and their young children (ages 4-9), staffed by enthusiastic local volunteer tutors. **The mission of English Connection is to teach and learn English, make friends and grow.**

Our volunteer tutors come mainly from local universities and churches. They are often motivated by a desire to engage more deeply in their community by supporting local immigrants. They all receive basic training and tutoring resources.

English Connection is open two nights a week for two hours, meeting at College Wesleyan Church in Marion, IN. During tutoring sessions, tutors work with adults who wish to improve their command of the English language. The majority of our clients are Spanish speakers. After an adult's initial language skills have been assessed, he or she is assigned a tutor for one-on-one instruction. Multiple tutoring pairs work in the same tutoring room under the guidance of a "head tutor". Another team of tutors works concurrently with the adults' children, offering play time and help with English conversation, literacy, numeracy and school homework.

It is our hope that, in addition to addressing language skills, the program participants will form a multicultural, multi-generational group of friends. We provide opportunities for this through one-on-one tutoring, communal coffee breaks, and group activities.

Our Goals for Program Participants

1. Adult Immigrants: Promote personal and professional success.

EC tutors aim to understand the learning goals of their tutees and offer personalized, practical ESL instruction, helping adults navigate their professional and daily lives.

2. Immigrant Children (ages 4-9): Challenge and support.

EC tutors aim to create an environment where immigrant children can be themselves, make friends, engage their intellectual curiosity, and receive help with school homework, English vocabulary, literacy and numeracy skills.

3. Tutors: Equip for better community service.

This is accomplished through in-service learning and intercultural relationships.

4. Program Staff: Provide professional development opportunities for current college students.

Qualified students who apply for paid staff positions (head tutors, program assistant) take on higher-level responsibilities in program leadership and administration and are mentored by the program director.