

Volunteer Newsletter

January 2016



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VOLUNTEER VIEWPOINT

Dear Volunteers,

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday. My family and I vacationed with my in-laws and feel as though we got to have a second holiday with all the snow days. We don't live right in town, and it took the salt trucks almost four days to get to the end of our cul-de-sac!

I mention this because first and foremost, we want our students and volunteers to stay safe during inclement weather. Our official policy is that when Chatham County Public Schools are closed, Chatham Literacy offices are also closed, and tutoring should be suspended. However, use your best judgement. If the schools are not closed, but your neighborhood is a sheet of ice, for instance, cancel or reschedule with your student.

Also, given the bad weather, this month's helpful tutoring tip centers on making sure your student knows about our emergency 911 system, when to call it, and what to say in the event of an emergency. Also, if your student is an immigrant to our country, you may want to reassure him/her that when a call is made, no one asks for residency or citizenship status.

Thank you always for all you do. Best wishes to all of you for a Happy New Year!

~Desiree

EVENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Come to our ribbon cutting ceremony hosted by the Chatham Chamber of Commerce to see the new building at 606 East 3rd Street in Siler City and have a chance to win a door prize. The ceremony will be on Wednesday, January 25th from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. Chatham Habitat for Humanity and Independent Mary Kay Sales Director, Athena Tillman, share our building and will be there as well! Light refreshments will be provided by The Old Place of Bear Creek.



Ongoing Tutor Interest Meetings and Orientations

Do you know people who want to get involved in the community? Have them call/text 919-299-0473 or email desiree@chathamliteracy.org. Interest meetings can be done via phone, video call, or in person at their convenience. If they decide to get involved, they schedule another face-to-face meeting done, again, at your friend's convenience. At that time, they will receive the tutor manual and be oriented to training and Chatham Literacy policies and procedures before attending one of the face-to-face training dates below. Likewise, if you are a tutor who wants to attend an orientation or training to have a refresher, just let Desiree know!

2017 Training Dates

February 18th April 29th
June 3rd August 12th
October 21st

All trainings take place on a Saturday from 9 am to 3 pm—lunch provided—locations to be determined.

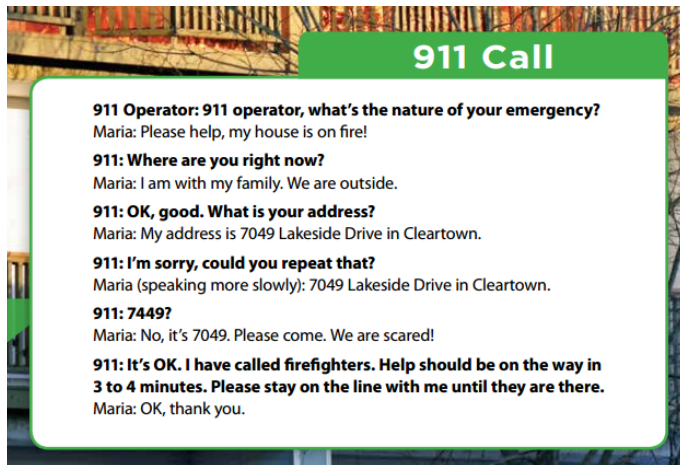
CALLING 911

Adapted from the *Notebook* (Winter 2017), a Pro-Literacy Publication

Purpose: To guide students through a practice 911 conversation and give them a better idea of when to use the emergency number.

Rationale: Do your students know when to and when not to call 911? They may think that calling 911 can be for any situation where help is needed, including minor health issues or home incidents (for example, a water leak). In other instances, students may hesitate to call 911 because they fear they will not speak English clearly enough. This lesson plan helps ESOL students decide when it is appropriate or inappropriate to call 911. It then gives them a practice conversation to call 911.

The Basic Activity



- Discuss what 911 is; explain that 911 is a number to call when there is a medical or home emergency. If applicable, ask if students have a number similar to 911 in their native country? What is the number? Ask if they know when to call 911.
- Have students draw two circles on a piece of paper. One circle should say “OK to call 911.” The other should say “Not OK to call 911.” Next, the discuss each of the following situations in random order and sort them appropriately.
OK to call 911: • Medical emergency • House fire • Heart attack • Burglary or theft • Domestic violence • Car accident with bad injuries
Not OK to call 911: • When the power is out • When water pipes burst • For a ride to a doctor’s appointment • For your pet • As a joke
- Talk about the kind of information someone should know when calling 911. This includes having an exact address, saying what the emergency is, staying on the phone until help arrives, and answering questions from the operator.

- Once students understand when to call 911, tell them they will practice a conversation. Although many 911 operators can get an interpreter on the line, it is still excellent practice to be able to speak in English about their emergency.
- Give each student a copy of the conversation in the previous column. Practice reading the dialogue. You may discuss how an emergency may affect a person’s clarity whether they are a native speaker or not. Intentionally read some of the lines fast.
- Discuss vocabulary and/or pronunciation as needed. Let students know operators may ask them to repeat information because there are certain questions they need to ask, not because your student’s pronunciation is poor
- Remind students that while they might feel emotional during an emergency, it is important to try to stay calm while on the phone.
- Depending on your students’ level of proficiency, create a new 911 scenario, do a dictation using some of the sentences from the conversation, or create a cloze activity where the conversation has missing words and students need to fill in the missing words.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Melania Rodriguez Cano



Melania Rodriguez Cano is enrolled in our ESOL and Citizenship programs while simultaneously undergoing dialysis three times a week. In December, she and her high school-aged daughter donated some of their precious time to helping Chatham Literacy with the Siler City Christmas Parade float. She recently became a grandmother for the second time and never fails to come to tutoring with a smile on her face.

