

Answers May Vary Guidebook

I am happy that the *Answers May Vary Guidebook* is still being used, and my hope is that people will still find it useful for years to come.

What I would like to add now – what I wish I had said when *Answers May Vary Guidebook* was first published – is that this guidebook contains easy to use strategies and effective practices that can be used by anyone accompanying a developmentally disabled adult in their daily life. It can also be used in adult literacy programs.

People are often intimidated by the idea of tutoring an adult with a developmental disability. I think there are at least two reasons for this.

1. First, many of us have not had much exposure to disabled people and this can cause an element of discomfort. This applies particularly to those of us who grew up never seeing disabled kids or adults – before schools included kids with disabilities and before adults with disabilities were included in the activities of daily life.
2. Literacy programs often think they don't know how to work with disabled learners.

For this reason, a developmentally disabled adult can wait much longer than a non-disabled adult to get matched with a volunteer tutor in an adult literacy program.

To encourage literacy programs that want to serve adults with disabilities, I'd like to say that the strategies and effective practices used to help a developmentally disabled adult improve their reading, writing, and essential skills are basically the same as those used to help any adult improve their reading, writing, and essential skills. The difference is that they will likely need more patience, need more repetition, to go at a slower pace, and probably work at lower levels. The other difference is that a disabled adult may need ongoing practice to maintain the skills they have.

Thank you to everyone who is helping adults with developmental disabilities improve their reading, writing, and essential skills