

Meeting the Numeracy Challenge

A roadmap for the future of numeracy in Ireland

Wednesday 11 May 2005
at the
Red Cow Moran Hotel
Naas Road
Dublin 22

11.00 am – 4.00 pm

What will you gain from this conference?

- Better ways to teach learners who have different levels of numeracy skills
- The opportunity to review and see demonstrations of an exciting range of numeracy resources
- Learn good practice from the Danish experience.

$\frac{1}{4}$ of all adults find it difficult to deal with simple everyday numeracy tasks

Numeracy is a lifeskill

$\frac{1}{3}$ of all adults in the workplace use numeracy skills in their work

problem solving, relationships, pattern and chance, data handling and space, shape and number



An Áisíneacht Náisiúnta Litearthachta do Aosaigh
National Adult Literacy Agency
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What is this event about?

The main focus of this event is to increase awareness of the need to develop quality numeracy provision in Ireland for the benefit of learners. Specifically participants will:

- Find out about the vast range of numeracy resources that are available;
- Share good practice in numeracy teaching and learning both nationally and internationally;
- Learn new approaches to managing groups of learners who have different levels of numeracy skills;
- Gain new ideas for delivering FETAC foundation mathematics;
- Find out about the specific issues related to ESOL learners;
- Get an opportunity to network with others involved in numeracy.

Who is this conference aimed at?

The day will be of great interest to anyone involved in adult numeracy, including:

- Adult Literacy and Numeracy Tutors;
- ESOL tutors;
- Family support workers;
- Tutors of FETAC Foundation level mathematics;
- VEC Adult Literacy Organisers;
- Community Training Centres;
- Senior Traveller Training Centres;
- Youthreach;
- Policymakers.

Programme

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10.30 – 11.00am	Registration; tea and coffee
11.00 – 11.20	Welcome and Introduction
11.20 -11.50	Why teach numeracy to adults who have a lack of basic skills? Lene Østergaard Johansen,
11.50 – 12.10	Numeracy in Ireland – A roadmap for the future Terry Maguire, NALA Numeracy Co-ordinator
12.10 – 12.40pm	The Flexible Learning Ring – An innovative approach to managing learners with different levels of numeracy skills Eigil Peter Hansen.
12.40 – 13.00	Questions and answers
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch
2.00 – 3.30	Workshops (Full Details on Page 4)

Keynote Speakers

Eigil Peter Hansen, VUC Syd. Copenhagen, Denmark.



Eigil has been a teacher in the Danish Adult Education System for 29 years. He is an external examiner, a text book writer, and a co-ordinator and coach of in-service training for Mathematics teachers who work with adults. In his talk Eigil will describe a model of flexible learning that he has developed for his own teaching in Denmark. **The 'Flexible Ring'** approach enables him to manage his classroom and meet the needs of learners who have different levels of numeracy skills.

Lene Østergaard Johansen, Associate Professor of Mathematics, Aalborg University Denmark.



Lene's research has focused on the question "Why teach numeracy to adults who have a lack of basic mathematical skills?" In her talk Lene will highlight recent changes in adult basic education in Denmark, which have led to the development of a new programme for adults. Lene will contrast different views of policymakers and practitioners in implementing the numeracy strategy in Denmark which has relevance in the Irish context.

Workshop Facilitators

Jenny O'Reilly is an Adult Literacy Organiser with Kerry Education Service. She is a numeracy trainer both for NALA and WIT. She was a member of the trans-national ARKS team and the NALA working group that developed the NALA numeracy strategy 'Meeting the Numeracy Challenge'.

Valerie Seabright is a Teaching Fellow at Queen's University, Belfast, and is responsible for co-ordinating the Certificates and Diplomas in Numeracy and Essential Skills and ESOL and Essential Skills.

Noel Colleran is the Research and Development Officer with North Tipperary VEC. He has had extensive experience as a Youthreach manager and has carried out numeracy research and development with national agencies such as FETAC and NALA. In 2002 Noel was awarded a PhD in Adult Numeracy Learning and Teaching at the University of Limerick.

John O'Donoghue is an Associate Professor in Mathematics Education at the University of Limerick. He is the principal author of the Mathematics for Numeracy Series, Foundation Mathematics, published through Co. Tipperary (NR) VEC.

Workshops

Visual numeracy.

Facilitator: Eigil Peter Hansen

At the workshop Eigil will give focus on how art can be used to introduce simple maths problems. The examples and ideas he will introduce will include art pieces from established artists. He will also show how making simple pieces of art can develop adult learners mathematical skills. Eigil will also recommend Websites as a source of teaching and learning material.

Numeracy and specific learning difficulties.

Facilitator: Prof. Lene Østergaard Johansen and Bridget Gormley

This practical workshop will highlight how specific learning difficulties can affect numeracy. This workshop will discuss strategies that tutors can use to assist adult learners experiencing SLD to resolve their numeracy difficulties.

Numeracy issues for ESOL tutors.

Facilitator: Valerie Seabright

This practical and fun workshop will focus on integrating numeracy in the ESOL classroom. The workshop will examine 'The Big Picture' materials and resources for tutors' that NALA has recently published. The workshop will highlight the hidden numeracy concepts and contexts inherent in this resource. Also it will show participants strategies to deal with these issues with their ESOL learners. Finally practical ideas and activities will be developed at this workshop to support tutors in integrating numeracy into everyday ESOL practice.

Teaching, learning and assessing FETAC Foundation Level Mathematics.

Facilitator: Prof. John O'Donoghue, and Dr. Noel Colleran

This workshop on basic numeracy and foundational level mathematics will provide support and guidance for all teachers of adult numeracy who are delivering accredited FETAC mathematics programmes. Key areas for discussion will be: numeracy for everyday living—developing mathematical eyes, numeracy and the adult learner, how to take an integrated approach to numeracy development within FETAC mathematics at foundation level, and self-directed learning for adults.

Exhibition and demonstration of numeracy resources.

Facilitator: Dr. Terry Maguire and Jenny O'Reilly

At this workshop participants will have the opportunity to review a wide range of numeracy resources. Participants will also be given demonstrations of a range of interactive CD-Rom resources and be introduced to a number of useful sources of support including a range of recently developed websites. Tutors will be invited to join a virtual numeracy network that will enable them to share resources and experiences in the field of adult numeracy.

This workshop will run from: 2.00pm to 3.30pm and the resources will remain on display from 3.30pm -4.30pm to allow participants attending the other workshops to see the range of resources

Getting to the Venue

- By LUAS via Connelly Station, Bus Aras, Dublin City Centre (Lower Abbey Street beside Wynns Hotel) and Heuston Station.
- By car - located immediately off the Red Cow roundabout at the intersection of the N7 and M50. It is clearly visible as you approach it.
- By Dublin Bus - take any 51, 51b or 69 Bus from Aston Quay (just off O'Connell Bridge) leaving every 15 minutes normally.



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Literacy learning and tuition website:

www.literacytools.ie

Read Writenow TV Literacy Series 5 website:

www.readwritenow.ie



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