

5.11 Health Literacy Significance for Specific Populations

Quick Links: ESOL Lesson Plans/Materials for Specific Populations

- [U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants: Healthy Living Toolkit](#)
- [National Center for Farmworker Health, Inc.: For Your Health/Para Tu Salud](#)
(health literacy curriculum for migrant farm workers)
- [Fairfax County Family Literacy Curriculum: Health Module: Navigating the Healthcare System](#)

Incarcerated Learners

See [1.9, Health Literacy Significance for Special Populations: Incarcerated Learners](#).

- [American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia: Accountable to No One: The Virginia Department of Corrections and Prisoner Medical Care](#)
- [American Journal of Public Health: Improving the Oral Health of Prisoners to Improve Overall Health and Well-being](#)
Henrie M. Treadwell and Allan J. Formicola published this article in the journal's October 2005 issue (volume 95, issue 10, pages 1677-1678).
- [The Lancet: The Health of Prisoners](#)
Seema Fazel and Jacques Baillargeon published this review in *The Lancet* (volume 277, issue 9769, pages 956-965) in 2001.
- [National Commission on Correctional Health Care](#)
This website hosts the *CorrectCare* journal, which provides insight into many issues of correctional health and health care.
- [Women's and Children's Health Policy Center, John Hopkins University, School of Public Health: Health Issues Specific to Incarcerated Women: Information for State Maternal and Child Health Programs](#)
This 2000 research brief was written by K.M. Baldwin and J. Jones.



Migrant Workers

See [1.10, Health Literacy Significance for Special Populations: Migrant Workers](#).

- **[Migrant Health Promotion](#)**
This organization helps establish health education programs for migrant workers using health promotoras (community leaders).
- **[National Center for Farmworker Health, Inc.: For Your Health/ Para Tu Salud](#)**
This webpage hosts a health literacy curriculum for migrant farm workers with guides in Spanish.
- **[National Center for Farmworker Health, Inc.: Health Education](#)**
- **[Telamon Corporation: Telamon Corporation's Guide to Serving Farmworkers in the Commonwealth of Virginia](#)**
This directory lists various services that can be helpful in meeting the needs of migrant farmworkers in Virginia.
- **[Virginia Adult Educators' Research Network: Amplifying the Health Literacy of Migrant Farm Workers](#)**
Paul J. Long and Verónica Donahue's 1997 report, available on the NCFH website, describes practitioner research carried out in Nelson County.

Aging/Elderly Learners

See [1.11, Health Literacy Significance for Special Populations: Elderly Learners](#).

- **[AARP: Health](#)**
This magazine-style webpage offers plentiful information on health and health care for the elderly. It is probably best used as a teacher resource, as the format is "busy" and articles can be lengthy; the site translates into Spanish.
- **[Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality: Elderly Healthcare](#)**
- **[LIVESTRONG Foundation: Problems with Elderly Health Care](#)**
This brief 2011 article by Julie Boehlke summarizes roadblocks in health care coverage for elderly Americans, such as gaps in coverage and underinsurance.



- [**MedlinePlus: Seniors' Health**](#)
- [**NIHSeniorHealth**](#)
This site features a large collection of plain language articles on health issues related to aging. Text size and background contrast are adjustable.
- [**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: Quick Guide to Health Literacy and Older Adults**](#)
This guide for people who serve the elderly in health care explains what the special health literacy needs of elderly patients are and how these needs can be met by care providers.

Family Literacy Learners

See [1.12, Health Literacy Significance for Special Populations: Family Literacy Learners](#).

- [**Centre for Family Literacy: Foundations in Family Literacy: Family Literacy and Health**](#)
This Canadian resource explains the significance of health literacy to family literacy learners and offers suggestions to help learners and programs to address challenges.
- [**Fairfax County Family Literacy Curriculum: Health Module: Navigating the Healthcare System**](#)
This curriculum was written by Virginia ESOL educator Betsy Wong.
- [**MedlinePlus: Children and Teenagers**](#)
- [**Nemours: KidsHealth**](#)
This jargon-free website provides reliable information on many pediatric health issues.
- [**World Education: Family Health and Literacy: A Guide to Easy-to-Read Health Education Materials and Websites for Families**](#)
Julia McKinney and Sabrina Kurtz-Rossi developed this guide for World Education in collaboration with the National Institute for Literacy, through a MetLife Foundation grant.

Sandwich Generation Learners

See [1.13, Health Literacy Significance for Special Populations: Sandwich Generation Learners](#).

- [**ARCH National Respite Network and Resource Center**](#)
This site includes a respite service locator.
- [**Family Caregiver Alliance**](#)
This site provides helpful fact sheets for caregivers in English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, and Vietnamese.
- [**Kaiser Health News: The Parent Trap: Adult Children Care for Elderly Parents**](#)
This 2012 story by staff writer Marilyn Werber Serafini gives useful insight on sandwich generation challenges.
- [**MedlinePlus: Caregivers**](#)
- [**MedlinePlus: Stress**](#)
- [**N4A: National Association of Area Agencies on Aging**](#)
This site includes useful information on aging and a tool to locate one's area agency.

Learners who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

See [1.14, Health Literacy Significance for Special Populations: Learners who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing](#).

- [**Dave's ESL Cafe Teacher Discussion Forums: Teaching English to Deaf Students**](#)
- [**Deaf MD**](#)
This site includes tools for locating deaf-sensitive local health care providers and finding video health information in American Sign Language.
- [**Health Bridges: Health Information for Persons who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing**](#)
This site provides helpful insight into communication needs and rights pertaining to health care for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.



- **[Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine: Health Care Interactions with Deaf Culture](#)**
This article by Helen E. Meador and Philip Zazove appeared in the May-June 2005 issue of the journal (volume 18, number 3, pages 218-222).
- **[Minnesota Department of Human Services: Deaf Culture and Sign Language](#)**
- **[National Association of the Deaf: Health Care and Mental Health Services](#)**
- **[Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing](#)**
This site includes a list of sign language interpreter services in Virginia.

Learners who are Blind or have Low Vision

See [1.15, Health Literacy Significance for Special Populations: Learners who are Blind or have Low Vision](#).

- **Articles on Health Care Experiences of Visually Impaired People:**
 - **[American Family Physician: The Visually Impaired Patient](#)**
This article by Eric A. Rosenberg and Laura C. Sperazza appeared in the journal *American Family Physician*, volume 77, number 10, pages 1431-1436.
 - **[American Journal of Medical Quality: Improving Health Care Experiences of Persons who are Blind or have Low Vision: Suggestions from Focus Groups](#)**
This 2004 article by Bonnie L. O'Day, Mary Killeen, and Lisa I. Iezzoni was published in the September-October 2004 issue of the *American Journal of Medical Quality*, 19(5), 193-200. [It is available online to journal subscribers.](#)
 - **[Blindskills, Inc.: Tips for Hospital Staff Members and Caregivers](#)**
These tips were compiled by Carl M. McCarl.
 - **[Clinical Nurse Specialist: Healthcare Experiences of Women with Visual Impairment](#)**
This article by Nancy C. Sharts-Hopko, Suzanne Smeltzer, Barbara B. Ott, and Vanessa Zimmerman was published in the May-June 2010 issue of the journal, volume 24, issue 3, pages 149-153. [It is available online to journal subscribers.](#)



- **[Lions of Virginia](#)**
Lions Clubs provide eyeglasses and other support to the visually impaired. This site lists contact information for Virginia clubs.
- **National Organizations for Blind and Vision Impaired** (may offer local services):
 - **[American Foundation for the Blind](#)**
The section on seniors has a health care component.
 - **[Lighthouse International](#)**
 - **[National Federation for the Blind](#)**
- **[Perkins Scout Clearinghouse](#)**
Perkins Scout is an information clearinghouse on blindness and visual impairment maintained by the Perkins School for the Blind in Massachusetts.
- **[Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired](#)**
This webpage provides information on services available in the state.
- **[Virginia Department of Social Services: Local Departments of Social Services](#)**
This webpage lists Virginia's departments of social services, which can be contacted to connect learners with services for people with disabilities such as blindness.
- **[Virginia Navigator](#)**
Choose "Find Services" and use the "Guided Search." Type in a learner's zip code. Then choose to find services by word or words and type in "blind." This should bring up a list of available public and private services in the learner's area.

Refugees

See [1.16, Health Literacy Significance for Special Populations: Refugees](#); [1.17, Mental Health and ESOL Learners](#); [3.8, An Interview with Janet Isserlis](#); and [3.9, Mental Health: Bag of Rocks Lesson](#).

- **[Refugee and Immigrant Services in Virginia](#)**
This site lists contact information for organizations that provide support services and health assessments to refugees in Virginia.



- **[Refugee Health Information Network](#)**
This site provides multilingual health information for refugees and cultural information for health care providers.
- **[Refugee Health Technical Assistance Center](#)**
This site provides information for health care providers and other refugee service providers on refugee physical and mental health, health-related benefits, and access to care.
- **[U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants: Healthy Living Toolkit](#)**
Designed for recently arrived refugees, this toolkit consists of printable brochures with information on communicable diseases, using health care, domestic violence, mental health care, maternal and child health, and other topics. Materials are available in English and many other languages.
- **[U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement: Health Care Reform for Refugees](#)**
This fact sheet provides detailed information on what is new for refugees under health care reform and includes helpful information for refugees seeking care options after their eight months of medical coverage assistance expire.
- **[Virginia Office of Newcomer Services](#)**
This office oversees refugee resettlement in Virginia.

