

# Take your partner

Literacy Group (Mixed)  
– Six Book Challenge



## Case study template

Max: 500 words

**Case Study Title:** Reading Project – Take Your Partner

**Pilot LA/provider:**

**Contact name and job title:** Dermot Foster, literacy tutor

**Contact details:** *Oldham Lifelong Learning Skills for Work/Life*

**Introduction:**

**The objectives of the project are:**

- To test the attitudes to, and experience of, reading amongst groups of emergent adult readers and gather good practice showing successful approaches to encouraging and maintaining reading, especially amongst those with lower literacy levels.
- To provide opportunities for adult readers to access formal literacy programmes/courses where appropriate.

**Description/Outline of activity, process, etc**

- Introduction of Six Book Challenge, jointly with Punam Ramchurn, Literature Development Officer at Oldham Library, in early Dec 08, ready to launch in Jan 09.
- Discussion of aims and objectives related to achievement on current literacy course where all 12 learners are working towards Levels 1 and 2. Many admit to not reading anything (including newspapers) during a typical week between their English classes. Diaries for the Six Book Challenge explained and individual reading habits explored.
- 10 out of 12 learners are from an ESOL background and would benefit from reading English language texts more regularly, especially to develop vocabulary and the reading fluency required for exam and work purposes. Several said that they only read to and with their young children but recognised that they could have more family reading times where they, as adults, can assert their right to read something of interest (children's books can be repetitive!)

- Learners taken on a tour of the library to see the range of provision and help locate reading material.
- A brief visit made by Punam Jan 13<sup>th</sup> to monitor progress. Four learners have read their first book and reviewed this in their diary. The others have been encouraged by this and are being asked each week to report on progress and make recommendations.

**Immediate and longer term impact**

**Key factors for success**

The diary of the Six Book Challenge is attractive and user-friendly. Punam has arranged for library staff to stamp/record completed reading in the diaries.

**Key challenges**

Learners break into the habit of always having a book 'on the go'. Enjoying a story so much that they find time to read (8 out of 10 are women).

**Next steps**

**Other additional information**

**Quotes from parents or practitioners:** *(these will go in a separate box)*

**Photos available (please circle/delete as appropriate):**      YES                  NO

*Photos need to be high resolution, at least 300 dpi*

NB: All photography requires a model release form for signature by each subject, or their parent / guardian in the case of children.

## The Reading for Pleasure suite of materials:

- CPD modules: Reading for pleasure in a number of contexts
- Storytelling: CPD unit with lesson ideas
- Families, Learning and Storytelling: Using archives for community cohesion
- Take Your Partner: Engaging emergent adult readers
- Technology and Reading: How to use blogs, wikis, iPods and e-books to promote reading
- Putting two and 2 together: Creating a bridge between literacy and numeracy learning
- Resources for libraries: Guidance on how to engage families to read for pleasure

