



# WASHINGTON STATE MIGRANT COUNCIL

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Mr. William Jackson  
Literacy in the Community  
1122 Est. Pike Street #1413  
Seattle, WA 98122-3934

Dear Mr. Jackson

My name is Juan J. Villafán; I am the Family Literacy Services Coordinator for the Washington State Migrant Council. The WSMC and Big Bend Community Collage have a partnership on Basic Adult Education. We are doing ESL classes at one of our locations in the City of Mattawa, WA. The WSMC provides the facilities, a portion of the economic cost, and the students; BBCC provides the materials, the other portion of the economic cost and the technical assistance. Due to the lack of bilingual instructors in the isolated, rural area of Mattawa, the BBCC asked me to be the ESL instructor. I gladly accepted the offer, and, as I mentioned before, I received a box of materials which was labeled: "EASY ELD Tapes - Set # 53 - 1 through 6 - Teacher's Guide.

With these materials on hands, and with just enough time to make copies from the EASY Part 1: The Beginning Series Student Workbook for the 37 students present to our first day of classes. I entered the classroom without even having the opportunity of glancing at the materials I had just received.

At the beginning, I had my doubts about the English Academia Success for You. In the past I was a user of one of the most popular ESL curriculums that include books, videos, and tapes. Yes, I had a successful class even though some people disliked the curriculum I was using. My doubts were whether the EASY curriculum was superior to the one I previously had used.

I put video number one, and opened the EASY part 1: The Beginner Series ESL Teenagers and Adults Teacher's Guide for the first time just in front of the class. It was easy for me to follow the Teacher's Guide, show the video, to keep the class interested, and to provide individual assistance when required.

During the following days, I started to analyze the materials from a more conscious and critical point of view. Discovering that the curriculum has Student Progress and General Check-out Control Sheets, Worksheets, Quizzes, Homework, Tests, Answer Keys, Student Role Play Scripts, and Lesson Plans, I thought that my Job as an ESL instructor was going to

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be EASY. Yes, it is, but I don't do the mistake of letting the curriculum do the instruction by itself. I always watch the video different times before each class; not just to be familiar with the material being taught, but to make sure that I know the grammar, structure, sounds, and all the rules and other possibilities that the English language provides; I have my copies in order, and look for additional materials, and activities related to the topic of the day. I have come to the conclusion that the EASY curriculum is absolutely superior to any other I used before, and I'm planning to implement it at every one of the sites where we provide ESL classes for our migrant parents.

I am glad to know that the "Oases of Literacy Project" is making an effort to implement the curriculum throughout the Migrant Stream, and I support it without reservations.

Thinking on our migrant parents, I started to imagine all the possible ways in which the EASY curriculum could be used. Besides of being used in the classroom, the EASY curriculum could be taken home by the students, and used as a self study program. There should be a regular scheduled class. Instructor and self study students should keep meetings available at their convenience to ask questions or bring up concerns. Obviously, there has to be a monitoring system to keep track of the curriculum to avoid misplacing parts of the curriculum.

Washington State Migrant Council has twenty two sites throughout the state. Let's just suppose that we could offer an ESL class at every location where the EASY curriculum is being used. If a family moves, and they do, from one place to another, it would be great to arrive to a new community or town, and to have a place to keep learning English; more than that, it would be fabulous that the student could continue his/her studies at the exact point where he/she was without interruptions because the instructor he/she left, and his/her new instructor can share all the information related to the student's progress.

I understand, because I had a demonstration on it, that the complete curriculum has the Lexia System as a supportive reading tool. The use of the computer in the ESL learning process will be a positive asset. Using the EASY curriculum, the Lexia System, and the computer as a unit, could cause a tremendous impact on the learning process, and its possibilities could go far beyond our understanding, just as computers by themselves went beyond anyone's expectation. I look forward in hearing from you soon. Feel free to call me at (509) 837-8909, if additional information is needed.

Sincerely

**WASHINGTON STATE MIGRANT COUNCIL**

Juan Villafan,  
Family Literacy Coordinator

