

## Tutor Tip

### Sharing a Language Experience

The following ten steps will help you to have a “language experience” with your student(s). This process will guarantee that the experience is stimulating and engaging.

1. Find a topic that is of personal interest to the learner by asking some basic questions. Try not to ask too many about their first country or family just in case they haven't moved here with other members of their family and may feel uncomfortable talking about that situation.
2. Have the student talk about what he/she knows about the topic – you may have to use questions to draw out the answers.
3. Take brief notes as the student speaks.
4. Read the information back and discuss the story with the student. Ask several questions, always be positive.
5. Pull out certain words and expressions and make a list for the learner.
6. Give the list with instructions about writing a small story to be shared at the next session.
7. During the next session first review the story and ask the student to read the story to you. Help to correct but do not over-correct!
8. The learner can start a scrapbook or a journal to share during subsequent lessons.

Research indicates that people learn best and retain more when they are engaged with the materials and in the learning process. As a tutor, be conscious of this, and specifically work to ensure that your student is an active rather than a passive learner.