

## What to Look for in a Tutor

Downers Grove, IL (Grassroots Newswire) December 12, 2011 - Once you have determined that your child could benefit from the help of a tutor, what next? According to David Pickering of the Downers Grove Huntington Learning Center, to make the best selection, parents should narrow down tutors based on several important criteria.

"The best tutors do have certain characteristics in common," says Pickering. "However, there are a number of other things that parents must consider when evaluating tutoring services. As a parent, you should seek evidence that the provider under review is capable of helping your child." Pickering suggests that parents look for the following five attributes in their child's tutor and tutoring program:

1. Customized tutoring curriculum - Whether interviewing an independent tutor or a tutoring center, be sure to ask about the instructional program that will be used to help your child. Will the provider use a standard set of materials, or will he or she develop a custom program for your child, tailored to help him or her overcome specific challenges?
2. A history of success - Seek tutors with a proven history of helping children perform better in school, raise their test scores, build their confidence and become more successful students. Ask for references, and ask those parents how the tutoring program benefited their children both short- and long-term.
3. A one-to-one program of instruction - Many children need individualized help because they struggle to keep up in the classroom. Thus, group tutoring may not provide these children the type of help they need. Be sure to seek one-to-one programs where your child will receive the full attention of the tutor.
4. Professional tutors - It may seem a given that anyone who presents him or herself as a tutor has significant, quality experience, but make sure the tutor you select is a trained tutoring professional who has been evaluated and screened. Be sure to ask for the tutor's or tutoring center's qualifications and experience, and ask for proof of a background check. Does the tutor hold any certifications? What is his or her educational experience?
5. Passion for children - To successfully reach students, a tutor must be able to work effectively with children and build rapport with them. When interviewing tutors, ask about their background in working with children of different ages. Why are they passionate about helping students improve their abilities? How do they motivate children? If possible, observe the tutor in action. Does he or she make children feel comfortable? Is he or she encouraging and positive, even when covering areas that are difficult for students? How do students respond to the tutor?

Perhaps one of the most important qualities of a great tutoring provider is that of patient persistence. "Whether a child needs a little help or a lot, the most effective tutors are the ones who are committed," says Pickering. "Seek a tutor who believes that all children are capable of learning and improving. That devotion to helping children overcome challenges and boost their self-esteem is a crucial component of an effective tutoring program."

For more information, contact David Pickering at the Downers Grove  
Huntington Learning Center at (630) 963-3359 or [PickeringD@hlcmail.com](mailto:PickeringD@hlcmail.com).

#### About Huntington Learning Center

Founded in 1977, Huntington Learning Center is the nation's longest-running supplemental education services provider. Today they continue to be an industry leader providing instruction in reading, writing, spelling, phonics, mathematics and study skills as well as SAT and ACT preparation to tens of thousands of students from kindergarten through 12th grade. Huntington prides itself on its unparalleled programs that help parents, caregivers and educators identify the gaps in skills and knowledge that can limit learning potential. Huntington's personalized programs of instruction enable children to excel. To learn more or to locate a center near you, call 1-800 CAN LEARN.

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