

## The Importance of Math Tutoring

There are many different types of students. Some are self-starters, while others require a push. Self starters have something known in behavioral psychology where the subject's orientation is to continue to push and to work hard. Whatever they encounter whether a challenge or not is met with a force to work hard until they achieve either understanding or mastery. Then there are naturally intelligent people who have spent their lives with understanding coming to them without a bit of effort. The latter group will be composed of people who have very little ability to push when it is necessary because that is a muscle that they have not developed over their many years. The most successful form is the mindset that pushes.

There are students who require someone to breathe down their necks whenever work is due. With those, the most important thing is to develop a strong work ethic in them. The only way to develop a work ethic is by doing what you wanted to avoid: breathing down their necks. If you're able to structure a work environment absent daily distractions like television and frivolous Internet, then you will benefit from laying the groundwork for someone who becomes accustomed to the working modality.

### Should a parent purchase subject matter books?

These days there are many Internet resources that accomplish the same goals that subject matter books like math help books or writing books seek to accomplish. We advise taking full advantage of these Internet resources not only will they save you lots of space, but they will also save you a lot of money. Parents are often frustrated when they look at the stack of books they have purchased to assist their young students, books which the students have very rarely used. If you observe young students you will find that, for them, there is something intrinsically intriguing about interacting with the Internet in any capacity. Even when it's in an educational capacity. So it is worthwhile to take advantage of this feature, and compile a list of Internet resources that you find useful. As a parent, if you find allowing your student access to the Internet problematic, because they tend to abuse that access by playing games or interacting on social networking websites, then you can take advantage of your router or Internet service providers ability to restrict access to certain websites or alternatively to allow access to only specific websites.

### Measures such as taking away television and video games.

Many parents are reluctant to engage measures like restricting or banning the use of the television and video games especially during weekdays. The fear is that they do not want to employ punitive measures in the course of training their young students to become focused scholars. We believe that the banning or restricting of games & Television should not be put under the heading of punitive. It is important, when training a young student to become more focused, to remember that at an early age it is very easy to be distracted. Removing distractions is a fantastic way of training young student to put themselves in a one track mind state which is the undistracted learning mindset. Once it is observed that the student is capable of maintaining a vigorous study schedule and doing so independently, small amounts of video game access and television access can be introduced and done so in a manner where they do not create competition with the newly developed focus.

## The importance of physical activity.

Studies have shown that a regular amount of exercise on a daily or weekly basis encourages mental health, and good long term memory. It is very important for the student to engage in regular physical activity. It does not have to be as intense as organized sports, but it should result in an elevated heart beat and optimally should involve other students of the same age so that it does not become boring and repetitious. Not only does it create great physical conditioning, it will also create great social interaction which will also feed the mind and Psyche in very encouraging ways.

## What should you do if your young student is bringing home mediocre grades?

It is very important for the parent not to, as a result of accumulated frustration, lash out at the student. The most constructive thing is to converse with the student to try to identify what he or she thinks might be the problem. Unfortunately, young students are not the best at giving a clear assessment of the situation. Their first instinct might be to blame their teacher, which is rarely a useful assessment. So it is up to the parent to begin by listening to the student, then going on to observe the student's environment to see if there are any contributing factors to the problem. Alongside that, one should if time permits, speak with the student's math teachers to see if they have any useful insights on the matter. If a parent is willing to listen, teachers can give insight that the parent would normally have missed. The problem is that a lot of parents are resistant to these insights and tend to assume a defensive posture when interacting with a teacher who has what is perceived as negative or aggressive feedback concerning the student. It is very important not to react to the conversation with the thought that the teacher has a negative agenda against the student, but to try just to listen.

## How effective is tutoring?

Math tutoring is very effective if it is done consistently and done along with normal studying. This means that the student should not rely strictly on the one or two weekly hours for the totality of learning. There should be ongoing maintenance work that allows the student to retain what is being learned so that the couple of hours a week of tutoring can derive maximum benefit. There are many tutoring services that employ this approach which has a message that incorporates these ideas.