

# Tips for Tutoring Math

- When scheduling a tutoring session, ask your tutee to bring any materials they have at home or from school with them to each session (textbook, math notes, flashcards, homework, pencil, paper etc)
- Introduce yourself: When you first meet, shake hands- show you are confident and excited. Perhaps trade some info with your tutee about yourselves- interests, sports, activities etc.
- Getting to business: Ask your student what they are currently working on in school and if they have any specific questions to begin with? What types of problems do they have difficulty with?
- Ask them to pull out homework and show you how they would start a problem. If they don't know how, show them slowly how to begin the problem, explaining exactly what you're doing and why you're doing it each step of the way. Ask questions like, "Now, what step comes next?" When you've done a couple problems together in this way (making sure the student is engaged and does some of the work too), tell them "Ok, now that we've done a couple together, try one on your own. If you get caught on a step, I'll help you." Then give them time to try it and do not immediately jump in as soon as they hesitate and have to think about a step for a little while. Jump in only when it becomes clear that they can't continue, or if they miss a step ("Ok, you started this problem really well, but you forgot this step. Good try though/ that was close!")
- Break problems down into steps.
- Give positive encouragement
- Observe and analyze the kinds of computational errors your student makes and then teach the necessary skills.
- Stress that **HOW** you do a problem is **just as important** as the correct answer.
- Use "hands-on" manipulatives when teaching math concepts. For example, use a ruler to measure objects, or coins to count change.
- Teach your student strategies for solving word problems.
- Relate math skills to daily life.
- Encourage your student to check his work using a particular method, or with a calculator if they are allowed
- Encourage frequent practice so that your student can master these skills. So often our students didn't understand a concept in the classroom and were left behind when the class moved on to a new skill. This time ensure success by allowing your student time to really learn these skills.
- Can your student:
  - use a calculator?
  - use a ruler?
  - use estimation strategies?
  - ask questions?
  - balance a checkbook?
  - calculate a tip?
  - read and interpret charts and graphs?