



8 Signs That Tutoring is Needed

You bought all the school supplies and school started great for your child. But soon you realized that he is falling behind. You thought this year would be different but it's getting worse. What can you do? Maybe it's time for a tutor. Check out this list to see if some of these tell-tale signs are familiar.

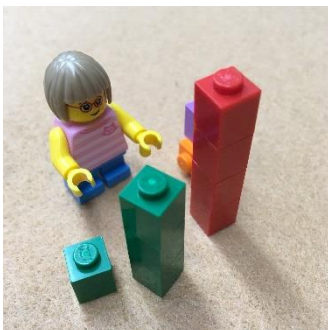
When is Tutoring Needed?



- ✓ **Child is falling behind peers:** You see all the other kids at the bus stop excited about school but your son does not want to get in line. He may be distancing himself socially or acting out because he can't keep up with his friends academically. You hesitate to talk to other parents because you are becoming anxious about his progress but you do hear that other children are doing well and you see that they are reading at a much higher level than your son. Chapter books? Your child is still mastering sight words and it isn't going well. A tutor can help struggling readers become proficient – enable your child to succeed by getting help to read!



- ✓ **Homework is piling up and becoming increasingly difficult.** Homework is overwhelming and the whole family is becoming anxious about getting it done. Children should be able to complete homework within the grade-level guidelines set by the school. Typically, this is ten minutes for each grade level so first graders should complete within 10 minutes, second graders within 20 minutes, etc. If your child is spending much more time on homework than he should, he is probably getting very frustrated. A tutor can help with homework, both with content and with ways to be more efficient at it.



- ✓ **Grades are suffering.** Report cards are a time of dread for you and your child. However, seeing daily schoolwork and weekly quizzes were probably good indicators of academic problems. Get in and talk to the teacher earlier than report card time. She may have lots of good ideas about what can be done at home. Standards-based report cards can provide more specifics about what your child needs help on – be sure to bring a copy when you talk to a tutor.



- ✓ **Math is not stacking up!** Math concepts build on each other so it is important to help your child get a firm understanding of key concepts as she encounters them. Encourage your child to do more problems than are assigned to build understanding. Ask her to teach you what she is learning. Math should not be just skills and drills – understanding does not come from memorizing rules and rote facts. Find ways to make math fun and show your child ways you use math every day. If you are having trouble helping your child with math, seek out help through the teacher or a tutor.

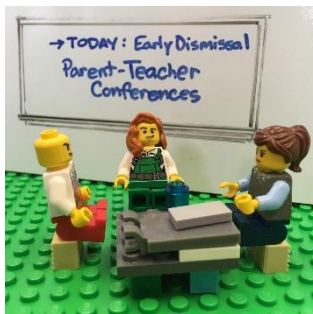
- ✓ **Schoolwork is spinning out of control – and your child is barely hanging on.** This might be an overstatement but it can feel this way to a child who is having difficulty and can't keep up with the work in school or with homework. An intervention either in school or with a private tutor (or both) is needed to help your child to hang on and succeed. You may wait to get help thinking it will get better but it often gets worse and makes things more difficult. Confidence erodes and it makes it harder to get back up and go again when that happens. A tutor can help build confidence and get your child back on track.



- ✓ **Child is increasingly anxious for tests.** Your child might feel sick on test days – and she’s not faking it because she has made herself sick with worry. Her stomach bothers her and she has a headache. She gets better after the test day is over, only to be sick again the next time she has to take a quiz or test. Talk to the teacher and find out when tests are scheduled. Make sure your child gets plenty of rest the night before – late-night cramming is not a helpful study habit and can make things worse as your child will be sleepy for the test. Help your child to get organized by planning out days to study for upcoming tests so things are studied in smaller chunks than all at once. A tutor can help your child develop more efficient study habits.



- ✓ **Loss of interest in school.** Your child is not as social as she once was and may be distancing herself from her friends because she is feeling sad that she cannot keep up with them. She seems disinterested in her schoolwork but it may be that she is afraid to fail so she doesn’t try. She does well on the weekends when she’s playing soccer or just hanging out with the family but is sad again when it is Monday (okay, we all get sad then but kids should look forward to seeing their friends when they are back in school). She may be putting a lot of pressure on herself and feeling that she is not measuring up to her expectations and, worse, not measuring up to yours. Ease up on the pressure – maybe it is too much for you as parents to be working on homework that is frustrating your child. You both may need a break so help her to take steps to academic success by working with a tutor.



- ✓ **Teacher or counselor recommends tutoring.** Your child’s teacher does all that she can for each student but sometimes a child needs more than can be done with so many students to teach. Your child may benefit from the one-to-one relationship that a tutor can provide. Parent-teacher conferences may be your first inkling that something is wrong (though you probably suspected it because of one of the previously-mentioned issues) so ask a lot of questions and follow up with the teacher’s suggestions. Get as much information about assessments that have been done that are causing your child’s teacher to be concerned. Try not to be defensive – everyone has your child’s interest at heart. A tutor can build on what has already been done so asking the teacher to provide the information for the tutor will be helpful.

Where to find a tutor:

Find a local tutor by searching online, looking for local advertisements, and asking friends for recommendations. Teachers usually may not recommend a tutor by name but the school office may have a list of reputable tutors in your area.

Please be aware that some online tutoring companies promote themselves as local by putting in the name of your town and “tutoring services” so that when you search for them, their name comes up. If you search for a nearby town, you will find the same company (same website) but with a different town name. For example, Hudson Tutoring, New Richmond Tutoring, Baldwin Tutoring – all look like companies in the community but they are only online tutoring services and are not local businesses. NRICH Tutoring provides both online and in-person tutoring for your convenience.

Dr. Judie Harrington, an experienced college professor, elementary teacher, and reading teacher, provides the one-on-one attention that your child needs. Conveniently located, NRICH Tutoring has a comfortable environment as well as the resources for hands-on, minds-on learning.

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