



WHAT GOOD IS A TUTOR?

Private tutors have long been valued as the basis of or as a supplement to a strong education. Tutoring has been a critical part of the formula for success for a large percentage of students in our local schools, whether or not that student has an identified learning problem.

Not all tutors are alike.

Some may be college students seeking employment, teachers-in-training who seek more instructional experience, classroom teachers who seek to supplement their regular income, retired teachers who want to maintain some involvement in their work, or full-time tutors with specialties in a variety of areas. Each has its own merits.

At QWERTY, all core tutors have advanced college degrees, primarily in various education fields or psychology, and they have substantial or even extensive teaching and tutoring experience. Each QWERTY tutor has made teaching or tutoring a significant part of his or her career if not a full-time career. Through their extensive experience and the proven approaches and expertise of the QWERTY team, we can confidently offer a range of positive supports for a wide range of students.



Whiteboards allow tutors and students to express ideas with visual emphasis.

A tutor can be a mentor who guides even the most capable students to:

- **broaden, deepen, or focus ideas** about the content of their work.
- **enhance the expression of those ideas** in oral and written form.
- **utilize resources** (books, computers, teachers, family, peers, etc.) most effectively.
- **tackle difficult, discouraging, or uninteresting tasks** with greater enthusiasm.
- **manage time, identify goals, set priorities, and maintain efficient organization** to become comfortable, independent learners.
- **evaluate and develop their own participation** in the learning process, including understanding educational strengths and weaknesses and advocate for their learning as appropriate.
- **respond to concerns** about social interactions and personal matters, which may be interfering with the ability to put their best foot forward in their schoolwork.
- **face the many often small but important decisions** in their lives, which can either clarify values and build character or, alternately, muddle priorities and erode integrity.

Tutoring and the family system: A tutor can be a welcome resource even if teachers and family are available for assistance, and especially when they are not. The tutor can be an important adjunct to the family system, allowing parents with limited time or emotional energy to focus their interactions with the child on other areas, which only they can best provide. Parents often report important gains beyond the academic goals.



Through the use of manipulative materials, tutors and students can demonstrate fraction concepts and other math concepts in concrete ways. Tutors can then help connect the concrete experience to the related language and application.



Tutors and students create graphic organizers using programs such as "Inspiration" or by developing them by hand. Graphic organizers allow students to more readily grasp concepts and relationships among ideas. They are an excellent way to plan paragraphs, essays, reports, and speeches.



In order to teach reading when a student is struggling, a clear understanding of the learner's profile is critical. We evaluate a student through anecdotal and written records, through our expert observation and informal assessment, and through formal evaluation as needed.