

Tips on Finding a Tutor

- Explain to your child why you think a tutor would be helpful. Discuss what can be accomplished and create some goals together.
- Ask your child's teacher or other parents for recommendations. Consider interviewing several tutors with your child. If your child is part of the process, he will be more open to help.
- Check the tutor's credentials. Ask about training, experiences, and references. It is important that the tutor is a certified teacher or has expertise in the subject area. Find out whether the person has experience working with students at your child's grade level. If the tutor is working with a child who has a learning disability, it is essential that he has been trained to use the best teaching strategies.
- Set clear goals for the tutor and request a description of the teaching plan. Request input from your child's teacher regarding the design of the plan. Try to create a partnership between you, your child's teacher, and the tutor.
- Schedule tutoring for the times of day when your child is most alert and ready to learn. After-school hours are the most common time for tutoring but this is also when students are tired or distracted by other activities. Allow for breaks from the school routine.
- For students with a learning disability, consider scheduling more than one lesson a week. Students with learning disabilities often need practice and repetition to master skills. Remember that it takes time to see improvement.
- Observe your child and the tutor working together. The session should include interactive learning experiences. The tutor should be guiding your child through independent learning, direct teaching and guided practice.
- Request periodic reports from the tutor and your child's teacher. There should be noticeable improvement within a few months.
- Be prepared to create a new or modified plan for learning.