

Tips for Selecting a Tutor

The **Coordinated Campaign for Learning Disabilities** has provided parents with a few useful tips to use when choosing a tutor.

1. Explain to your child why you think a tutor is needed and what a tutor does. Talk about what you hope will be accomplished with a tutor.
2. Ask your child's teacher or other parents for recommendations. Consider interviewing several tutors with your child. (If your child is a part of the process, he/she will be more open to accepting help.)
3. Check the tutor's credentials. Ask about training, experience and references. It is important that the tutor is a certified teacher or has expertise in the subject being taught. Find out whether the person has experience working with students at your child's grade level. If the tutor is working with a child with a learning disability, it is essential that he/she has been trained to use appropriate techniques that can address the student's special needs.
4. Set clear goals for the tutoring and request a description of the tutoring plan. Whenever possible, ask your child's teacher to participate in the design of this plan so that it links to school work. Try to create a partnership between you, your child's teacher and the tutor.
5. If possible, schedule tutoring for the times of the day when your child is 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 much-needed breaks from the school routine.
6. 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. Also, remember that it takes time to see improvement, so don't expect a quick fix.
7. Observe your child working with the tutor. The session should include hands-on learning and be very interactive. The tutor

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should be guiding your child through direct teaching and guided practice.

8. Request periodic reports from both the tutor and your child's teacher. There should be noticeable academic improvement within a few months.

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