

## Tutoring Tips

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Give children limited and sensible choices — we need to work on \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ today. Which do you want to start with?

Have a work plan. Today we are going to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Give the child the opportunity to add to the plan. Write it down and let the child check things off as they get done.

Vary the sessions.

Respond to the child's interest. Bring a book about football or animals.

Acknowledge when things aren't going well. This is hard — that's okay. Involve the child in the problem-solving process.

Assume that when a child doesn't understand something you have to find a better way to explain it. If a child is really stuck — move on. Often the more you stay on one point, the more anxious it makes the child. Children learn best in an environment they perceive to be safe.

When you know a child is pressing your buttons — be an actress and don't let on. Once you are in a power struggle, you have lost — even though you might win.

Articulate the issues for the child. “I have noticed that it takes you a while to settle down. Why don't we spend the first few minutes talking about your favorite TV show or something fun you have done recently.” Remember that reading is a language-based skill. Any time spent talking with a child is helpful.

If a child comes to tutoring and is obviously upset about something, ask her if she wants to talk about it. Acknowledge the feelings the child may be expressing.