

Academic Tutoring can be the Key to Learning

**By Melanie West
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For many students, school is not necessarily a “learning” environment. Your child spends 8 hours a day in a group setting. Wonderful ideas and concepts are presented to the group, but that particular group setting may not feel “safe” for your child to “learn”.

The art of learning is an interactive process in which the student is allowed to ask questions, clarify misunderstandings, skim past concepts that have already been mastered, and delve deeper into concepts that are vague and unclear to the individual.

Group situations do not necessarily lend themselves to the process of learning because the classroom teacher feels extraordinary pressure to keep the majority of the students engaged in an activity. Thus independent reading and completion of worksheets have become popular teaching tools. Classrooms tend to be places of “doing” versus places of “learning”.

Dynamic one-on-one tutoring, however, can provide unique opportunities for authentic learning. A good tutoring session will not only focus on the “doing” (a.k.a. “Getting the homework done”) but will also speed through concepts that have been mastered while providing opportunities to slow down to more fully explore concepts that are unclear.

A highly qualified tutor should be specialized in discovering your child’s missing concepts and have expertise in providing alternative approaches to learning. Children have a number of specific learning styles. When a child is weak in a specific subject, the teaching method at school is not a match for how your child learns information. Tutors who specialize in understanding how the brain learns will be able to more effectively cater to your child’s learning style, dramatically increasing school performance. In short, a little bit of good tutoring can go a long way toward overall school success.

About the Author

Melanie West is America's leading authority on “Right Brain Learning” and the founder of The Right Side of Learning program. As an Educational Psychologist and expert in her field of endeavor, Melanie is affectionately referred to as the “Child Whisperer” as she has helped thousands of children and families get back on the educational track. Her revolutionary approach uses a visual, kinesthetic, and auditory approach to mastering the art of learning. Melanie can be contacted through her website at www.therightsideoflearning.com, by e-mail at melanie.west@therightsideoflearning.com or by phone at 310.947.2662.

