



TUTORS FOR KIDS, INC

Celebrating 14 years of Tutoring Children

Excited children eager to learn FEBRUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

Tutors for Kids, Inc. is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit community-based organization of volunteers who support the local educational process. Our Mission: Meeting student educational needs as defined by the teacher through suitable and trained volunteer tutors in the local, Tri-county Title 1 public schools as determined by the Board of Directors.

Tutors for Kids has a new board member



Joanne Cooper, joined the Tutors for Kids Board of Directors on January 8, 2024. We are pleased to welcome her. Joanne grew up in Cincinnati, OH and then spent 33 years in the Chicago area pursuing her career in the chemical and medical device industries. She and her husband, Randy, retired to The Villages in 2022.

Joanne joined Tutor For Kids in 2022 and has been hooked ever since! So much so that she is privileged to have become a member of the Board and is currently the school tutor coordinator (STC) for Beverly Shores Elementary.

When she's not tutoring, Joanne enjoys golf, multiple books clubs, samba (the card game) and exercise. She has two step-children, who are still in the Chicago area, and has her first ever dog, Buddy!

It is with deep regret to announce the death of Chris Moyer, wife of Tutors for Kids retired board member, Glen Moyer.

Christine Peterson Moyer of the Villages, Florida passed away on January 30, 2024. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Christine's favorite charities: the Community United Methodist Church at <https://communityumc.church/give> or the Marion Therapeutic Riding Association at <https://mariontherapeuticridingassociation-bloom.kindful.com/>.



Tutor's Meeting at Colony Plaza

Feb. 14, 2024 from 3:00pm to 4:30pm

Topic—Why They Can't Pay Attention

Please try to attend. See you at 3:00 at Colony

SAVE THE DATE

General Tutor Meetings for the year

WEDNESDAY April 10, 2024

The meeting is at Colony Recreation Center from 3:00pm to 4:30pm



Thank
You

Dr. Thi Tran, of Village Dermatology presented Tutors for Kids Board Chair, Eileen Honohan with his very generous Matching Gift for our Giving Tuesday Family and Friends Appeal of 2023. Donations and this matching grant resulted in \$3,580 more than double the previous year's campaign!

Dr. Tran has been a longtime supporter of Tutor for Kids mission to help struggling students through tutoring and rewarding those students' efforts with books that they keep as their very own. Many thanks to Dr. Tran whose message to us is: **"Keep up the good work! "**

Tutors for Kids is **growing at a rapid pace**. Every non profit organization **needs a number of volunteers** working behind the scenes to keep things running smoothly. Tutors for Kids is no exception. In the last year we have doubled our tutor base, added new schools, and increased the number of books that we give out to our students.

We need help in all areas of technology. These include Facebook, System experience, Spreadsheets and MS Access.. We also need help in Administration, Grant writing, Mailchimp, Training Instructors, and more.

If you can help send an email to info@tutors4kids.org

Put "I can Help in the Subject line". We will contact you.

Help Wanted

HOW LEARNERS LEARN

by Gary Segal

There are tons of research regarding “how Teachers teach”. However, there is only a miniscule amount of research regarding “how Learners learn.”

So, a basic question is: “How do learners learn?”

Research has shown learners learn via 3 methods:

Visual (50%) – “**show me** what you are talking about.

I learn by seeing

Focused

Mental Image

Imagine

Auditory (20%) – “**sounds good** to me.”

I learn by listening

Manner of speaking

Describe in detail

Voiced an opinion

Kinesthetic (25%) – “that **feels right** to me.”

I learn by doing

Touch

Do it myself

Catch on

N T L (National Learning Labs) and their Learning Pyramid

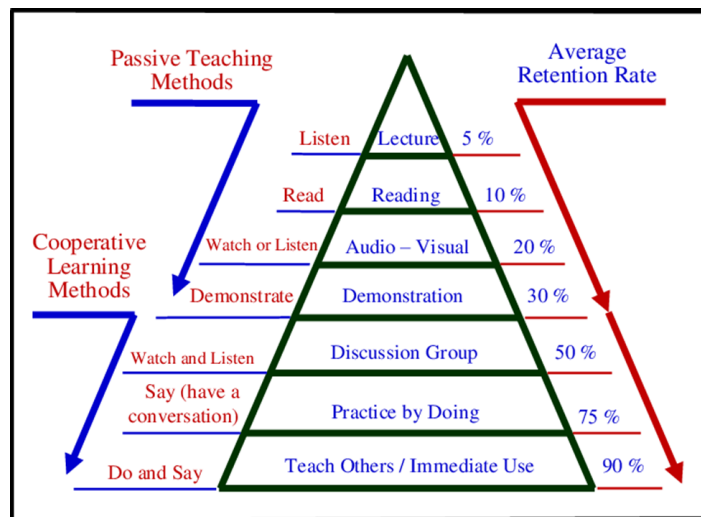
First, a little history regarding the origin of NTL. NTL was founded in 1947 by the giants in the field of Humanistic Psychology (Maslow, Lewin, Rogers). From the beginning, the field of psychology focused solely on working with those who had psychological problems. Humanistic psychology began with the belief that traditional psychology only touched upon the negative / difficult aspects of psychological growth. Humanistic psychology focused on the opposite perspective, “what can be done to help people reach their full potential and achieve high self-esteem and self-actualization. This was the basis and the work on the National Training Labs.

One of the early developments was the creation of their Learning Pyramid. Since the overwhelming majority of teaching methods consist of “**teacher to student lecture**”, NTL’s research showed there are much better ways for students to retain what has been presented to them.

To maximize the learning of the student, it is best to combine the Learning Pyramid with the Learner’s preferred way of learning. I realize this places very heavy burden on the teacher, to be able to modify their preferred teaching to meet the needs of the individual student – but, if this is possible, teachers would produce students that truly emulated the foundational beliefs of NTL.

As a side note, my PhD is in the field of Humanistic Psychology and my dissertation is “Self-Esteem in Children and its Manifestation into Adulthood”.

I have conducted many workshops on this topic, in which the participants get to map out their own personal development and learn how their own self-esteem was formed and continues to develop, some in a healthy psychological manner, while others in a dysfunctional manner.



Karen Woodruff, (3rd grade tutor) Debbie Wile, Leader (5th grade)

At a recent Tutors Meeting, Debbie Wile, a tutor at Wildwood Intermediate School and Co-Chair of the committee to plan and conduct Tutor Meetings, offered to lead small group discussions of how we tutor math. On February 1st five tutors gathered at Colony Cottage Rec Center to NOTICE and WONDER about the challenges of tutoring math.

Following her recommendation that we can find out what our students don't understand by asking them what they do understand via Noticing and Wondering, Debbie encouraged each participant to share their challenges with helping students to grasp math concepts, from number lines to place value to the use of "tens frames" and other math manipulatives. Debbie's enthusiasm for helping students to understand math concepts was contagious. The hour and a half flew by as all had the opportunity to listen and learn from each other about how to individualize our tutoring. All agreed with Debbie's statement that "We tutors have the luxury of being able to take time with students to explore which math concepts need practice and reinforcement."

The group decided that we would like to continue these **Math Tutoring Circles**. The next session is tentatively scheduled for Friday, March 1, 2024. Time and place still need to be confirmed. If you want to join us or to learn more about how to help students with math, please contact Debbie Wile at debwile@gmail.com. Or if you would like an email copy of the PowerPoint slides prepared for the session and full of great ideas, you could request those from Debbie.

Report from Tutor meeting on January 17, 2024

At our most recent Tutor meeting of January 17, 2024 some 70 tutors heard from our fantastic panel of teachers and tutors on "Building the Tutor/Teacher Relationship. There was reaction and discussion during the 'Table Talk' session of the meeting. We promised to collate all the ideas for Tutor/Teacher relationships into a best practices bulletin. Attached you will find all of your best ideas collated by Shug Brandell. Hope that you enjoy recalling those lively discussions.

Tutors for Kids Tutor-Teacher Partnership "Best Practices" January 2024, Tutors Meeting

Tutors:

- Be open, observant, and flexible without preconceived ideas.
- Understand that kids are all different; some charming, some stubborn, some "cry" for attention.
- Understand tutoring may be one on one, small group, circulating through-out the classroom, and helping the teacher in many ways, etc.
- Communicate with the teacher; arrive before or after school to talk with her/him.
- Be judicious in the number of emails sent; teachers may prefer texting.
- Target skills identified by the teacher.
- Give and get feedback about the progress and/or problems of the students you work with, weekly, if possible.
- Provide rewards such as stickers and books when student's goals are met; they are available in the school's Book Room.
- Be open to a variety of tasks knowing that the teacher may have one way for you to do something.
- Meet periodically with other tutors in the room or school for support and consistency.
- Bring your "bag of tricks" but check with the teacher for clarification.
- Check school websites for calendar updates.

(Continued next column)

Teachers:

- Direct the tasks and provide more structure initially.
- Create an expectations checklist with the tutor; be proactive.
- Inform tutors of schedule changes.
- Communicate the needs of students.
- Get students in higher grades to buy-in and understand her/his problem and tutor's desire to help.



A Follow up from Bob Navarre on January Tutors' Meeting

Bob Navarre, your Head Tutor Coordinator, would like to remind all of our tutors that it is up to YOU to establish and grow the relationship with your teachers so as to provide the maximum opportunity to interact with and help the students. Although we have come to accept that all teachers do not want tutors in their classrooms, most do and are open to finding multiple ways in which we can help the students. But we have to put in the time in the school in order to develop that good working relationship with the Teachers. That may mean staying during 'specials', or recess, or lunch, when the students are not in the classroom. Those are not necessarily down times for tutors, but rather the best times to work on those relationships and to share information with the Teachers about the students that we work with.

THE GOOD TIMES AND THE BAD

By Frank Russo

Greetings Tutors! Many of you have been tutoring for a few months. By now you have some relationship with your student(s). You may have established a good relationship where your student looks forward to their session with you and you in turn, enjoy going to tutor each week. If you are in this category HOORAY for you and your student(s).

I can recall after 11 years of tutoring I sometimes found myself in the 'hooray' category. But there were years when the opposite was true. My student was not enjoying school or my tutoring sessions. Try as I may - no breakthrough was happening.

I once had a fifth-grade boy that I was tutoring sometime twice a week starting the week after Labor Day. He was reading and doing math at the second-grade level. I tried everything I knew and still, there was no response. To everything he simply replied, "Yep or Nope". Not even a 'maybe'.

I knew he was angry and finally at the end of January I confronted him about being angry. And, surprisingly, he talked about it, finally! He was angry at himself for not speaking up to the teacher even in the first grade when he didn't understand what was being taught. This went on for five years. He never realized how far behind he would be each year.

At least there was a starting point. We made an agreement. He would stop me every time he did not understand. He would work hard at each tutoring session and do some 'homework' in addition. I made an agreement to try to catch him up on math – in which he showed some interest. Knowing what I now knew, and what he knew, I could develop a plan with him. He was interested in sports so I loaded him up with some sports magazines and small, easy articles. And we concentrated on math.

Result: In May he received a D+ in Math and a D in Reading. That doesn't sound too good. But he felt better. It was the first time he had not received an "F" for as long as he could remember. Not the best of endings. But he did seem to enjoy the rest of the tutoring year. At least we talked!

Fun Times at School!

Last week when I entered the 2nd grade classroom at Wildwood Elementary to tutor, was I am for a surprise! All of the kids were dressed in white t-shirts with black dots.

They were so happy to tell me why they were dressed that way and were having fun. Amazing what a demonstration of school pride can do.



If your school is having something special or you just see a happy moment, please send me a picture or article to put in the newsletter. Lets make this newsletter for all schools.

Email at judy0847@comcast.net or news@tutors4kids.org Thank You!

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