

TUTORS FOR KIDS, INC

Celebrating 16 years of Tutoring Children



Tutors for Kids, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit community-based organization of volunteers who support the local educational process through direct classroom tutoring and other activities that enhance the educational environment, leading to scholastic advancement. 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.

SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



□ Welcome Back, Volunteer Tutors! □

I know many of the tutors have not returned to school yet, but you will soon. Teachers need time to get to know their class and assess the students. Then they will request tutors.

Welcome back to another exciting school year! We're thrilled to have your return, bringing your passion, dedication, and heart to help our students thrive. Your time and energy make a world of difference — not just in academics, but in building confidence, curiosity, and lifelong learning.

As we begin this new chapter, remember:

- □ Every hour you spend tutoring is a seed planted in a student's future.
- □ Your encouragement can turn self-doubt into self-belief.
- □ Your guidance helps unlock potential that students may not even know they have.
- Whether you're returning to familiar faces or meeting new ones, your impact is immeasurable. Thank you for being mentors, role models, and champions of education. Let's make this year one of growth, discovery, and joy — together.

Here's to a fantastic school year ahead!

RECRUITING NEW TUTORS

Do you know someone who would enjoy making a difference in a child's life? Please encourage them to visit our website at www.tutors4kids.org. We are looking for both tutors and behind-the-scenes volunteers.

1. Scroll down on the homepage to Click here for more information on becoming a tutor.
2. If interested, select [Click this link](#) and complete the online application form.
3. Attend the electronic orientation class and finish the training course.
4. Apply for the required security background check.
5. Once cleared, you'll be ready to begin tutoring! Wait for the email from Tutors for Kids STC for assignment. **Remember to check your spam or junk folders.**
6. If interested in the behind-the-scenes volunteer position, click on **other volunteers** on



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Our first General "Back to School" Tutor Meeting will be on Wednesday, October 15, 2025, at Colony Cottage Recreation Center, 510 Colony Blvd, The Villages, FL.

At this meeting, Tutors for Kids will present the **new** school team concept, how the book program works, discuss our **all-new** volunteer application process, go over our **all-new** orientation and training process, and have an open discussion with the audience. Please mark your calendar now so you don't miss this meeting.



Wildwood Intermediate School

On August 11, Wildwood Intermediate School held its first event, "Meet the Teacher." Tutors for Kids was there to hand out free books. The event was well attended, and 114 free books were distributed. Students and parents were thrilled to receive the books. Way to go Tutors for Kids!

Wildwood Middle School

On August 11, Wildwood Middle High School also held its annual "Meet the Teacher" event, and Tutors for Kids gave away 130 free books. Another successful day for Tutors for Kids!

What is an STC?

The School Tutor Coordinator (STC) is the primary source of contact for the tutor. Whenever a tutor has a question or problem, they should contact their STC. When the tutor is assigned to a school, they are also assigned an STC. Write their email down and have it handy; you never know when you will need it.

STC ORIENTATION and TRAINING SESSION

The STCs will have an orientation and training session on **Tuesday, September 30, from 3:00 to 4:30 pm at Colony Recreation Center**. Watch your email for details. This is for STCs only.

☐ Meeting the Teacher & Students

Your first day of tutoring will be different for every tutor. Some tutors will start early in the school year, while others will wait until the teacher is ready for them. Times may vary, but the process is the same. This is a special moment where you begin building the relationships that will shape your tutoring experience. Here's what to expect and

how to make the most of it:

□ □ Meeting the Teacher

- **Purpose:** The teacher is your key partner. They'll help you understand the students' academic needs, classroom routines, and how you can best support learning.
- **What to Ask:**
 - What subjects or skills should I focus on?
 - Are there specific goals or accommodations for the student(s)?
 - How do you prefer to communicate (email, notes, check-ins)?
- **Tips:**
 - Be respectful of their time — they're juggling a lot!
 - Take notes so you can refer back to them later.
 - Show enthusiasm and flexibility — teachers love that!

□ □ Meeting the Students

- **Purpose:** This is your chance to build trust and rapport. A warm, friendly introduction sets the tone for a positive tutoring relationship.
- **What to Do:**
 - Introduce yourself with a smile and something fun about you.
 - Ask students about their interests, favorite subjects, or hobbies.
 - Keep it light — this is about connection, not testing knowledge.
- **Tips:**
 - Be patient — some students may be shy or unsure at first.
 - Use encouraging language and active listening.
 - Observe how the student responds to different activities or questions.

□ After the First Few Weeks Back

- Reflect on what went well and what you might adjust.
- Jot down any notes about student strengths, challenges, or preferences.
- Follow up with the teacher if you have questions or ideas.

Your presence makes a difference from day one. Be kind, be curious, and be ready to learn alongside your students. You've got this! □

□ Strategies for Effective Tutoring

Effective tutoring is all about guiding students toward understanding while building their confidence and independence. Here are key strategies — including questioning, scaffolding, and praise, that tutors can use to make their sessions impactful:

□ 1. Questioning Techniques

Asking the right questions helps students think critically and engage deeply.

- **Open-ended questions:** Encourage discussion and exploration. Example: "Why do you think that answer makes sense?"
- **Probing questions:** Dig deeper into reasoning. Example: "Can you explain how you got that?"
- **Wait time:** Give students a few seconds to think before answering.
- **Focus questioning:** Lead students to discover answers themselves. Example: "What would happen if we changed this part of the problem?"

□ 2. Scaffolding

Scaffolding means providing support that gradually fades as the student gains

confidence.

- **Break tasks into smaller steps.** Example: Instead of “write an essay,” start with brainstorming, then outlining.
- **Model the process:** Show how to solve a problem, then let them try
- **Use visual aids:** Charts, diagrams, and graphic organizers help clarify concepts
- **Prompt and guide:** Offer hints or cues without giving away the answer.
Example: “What formula might help here?”
- **Gradual release:** Move from “I do” → “We do” → “You do”

□ **3. Praise & Encouragement**

Positive reinforcement boosts motivation and self-esteem.

- **Be specific:** Praise effort, strategy, or improvement. Example: “Great job using context clues to figure that word out!”
- **Encourage persistence:** Acknowledge when students stick with a challenge.
Example: “I love how you didn’t give up even when it got tricky.”
- **Celebrate small wins:** Every step forward matters
- **Use growth mindset language:** Example: “You’re still learning this — keep going!”
- **Build rapport:** Learn about students’ interests and strengths
- **Be patient:** Learning takes time and repetition
- **Reflect together:** Ask students what helped them understand or what they found hard
- **Stay flexible:** Adapt your approach based on how the student responds

□ **Tutor "Tool" Bag Essentials**

What to put in your Tutors for Kids tote bag? A well-stocked tutor tool bag can make sessions smoother, more engaging, and adaptable to different student needs. Here's a comprehensive list of items to include. **These are just suggestions. Check with the teacher before using your own educational materials.**

⇒ **Basic Supplies**

- Pencils and pens (variety of colors for emphasis)
- Erasers and pencil sharpeners
- Highlighters (multiple colors)
- Dry-erase markers and a small whiteboard
- Sticky notes and index cards
- Notebook or legal pad for notes

□ **Educational Materials**

- Flashcards (math facts, vocabulary, sight words)
- Math manipulations (counters, base ten blocks, fraction circles)
- Mini dictionary and thesaurus

□ **Engagement Tools**

- Timer or stopwatch (for timed activities or breaks)
- Small rewards (stickers, stamps, tokens) – **check with teacher first**
- Brain break cards or activity ideas
- Puzzle books or logic games
- Portable games (Uno, Scrabble tiles, etc.)

□ **Organizational Items**

- Folder or binder for student work and progress tracking
- Clipboard for writing on the go
- Laminated reference sheets (multiplication tables, grammar rules)
- Zip- lock bags or pouches to organize small items

□ Hygiene & Comfort

- Hand sanitizer
- Tissues
- Water bottle

TUTORS FOR KIDS NAME TAGS

You can purchase an official Tutors for Kids name tag for \$7.00 at Custom Apparel 3451 Wedgewood Lane, Southern Trace Plaza, The Villages, 352-750-1600 or [click to order](#)

Remember, you still must wear your name ID issued by the school each week. Tutors for Kids name tags are only an option.



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