

The Tutor TimesTM

October 2010



**How to Make the
Back-to-School
Transition an
Easy One**

**Is Your Child
MathSmartTM?**

**Educational
Activities
At Home**



TUTOR TIME[®]
CHILD CARE / LEARNING CENTERS
www.tutortime.com

Bring the Learning Experience Home

Tutor Time is committed to providing an enriching learning experience to every child in our care. But we also know how important it is for families to incorporate educational activities into their home as well. Here are some great things to do with children of all ages!

Infant

Save two cardboard paper towel rolls. Sit with your baby and show him how to put the tube to his mouth to make different sounds. Mimic sounds that he makes. When he stops, make sounds and see if he tries to copy you.

Toddler/Twaddler

Collect various lids and put these in a box. Sort through the lids with your child and talk about how they are the same and how they are different. Can you find two that are the same color? Same shape? Can you find three that are the same size?

Prepper

Make some homemade play dough with your child. Mix 1 1/2 cups of flour, 3/4 cup of salt, 1/8 cup of vegetable oil, 1/2 cup of water, and 1/2 package of powdered drink mix. Spend some time playing with it together.

Preschool/Pre-K

Pull out 1 or 2 magnifying glasses and a variety of objects like newspaper pictures, a baseball or a hairbrush. Examine the objects with your child. What do they look like? What do the stitches on the baseball look like? Go outside and explore trees, the sidewalk or flowers.

Have your child write or talk about his or her observations, comparing what the objects look like with and without the magnifying glass.

School-Ager

Invite your child to sit on the floor in front of you with her back to you. Use your finger to draw a picture (or write a word) on her back. Challenge her to guess what you are drawing. Now give her a turn to draw a picture. Can you guess what she is drawing?

MathSmart™

The Tutor Time LifeSmart™ curriculum is based on the research-based foundation that all children are Smart in many different ways. Our proprietary curriculum provides active experiences for the whole child so that s/he can develop every Smart. This month's article delves into what it means to be MathSmart.

Perhaps you saw the 2001 movie A Beautiful Mind. If you did, you have a mental image of what it means to be MathSmart. In this movie, Russell Crowe's character, John Forbes Nash, Jr. displays this intelligence as he manipulates complex equations and makes senses of his world through numbers.

While there are very few people who are as obsessed with numbers as this character, you can probably think of someone who is MathSmart. These are the people who can look at a bill in a restaurant and figure out a 20% tip in the blink of an eye. Or, those who are not only able to program their VCR without the manual, they can take it apart and put it back together when it stops working.

Children that are MathSmart enjoy logic games. You may find them playing with numbers and exploring patterns. They are fascinated by how things work and enjoy taking things apart and putting them back together again. These are the children who step back and examine a problem logically to solve it. They never let you get away with an easy answer because they always want to know "Why?"

How do Tutor Time teachers support your child's growing Math Smarts?

Counting, numbers and mathematical concepts play an important role in the life of a Tutor Time classroom. In our

Preschool and Pre-K classroom Math Centers, children have daily opportunities to join in number games, sort, seriate, and investigate patterns with a variety of engaging materials. During MathSmart Circle Times, teachers lead children in activities, such as making a graph, that allow them to actively explore important math concepts.

We also incorporate math and logic in other areas of the classroom. Important learning happens when your child:

- counts how many square blocks she used to build a castle
- notices that the string he is using in his art is longer than his piece of paper
- studies a "how-to" manual that shows the inner workings of a motor
- talks about how many eggs she needs for the pretend cake she is baking
- notices how two leaves are the same and how they are different.

At Tutor Time, we know that mathematical intelligence is highly valued in our society. By making math learning come alive for your child, we are providing the foundational tools needed to be successful throughout life.

Transitioning Back To School

This fall did your child start in a new classroom or perhaps a new school? Or is your child meeting new children or a new teacher in her classroom? Making such a change can bring on stress or anxiety for your family and you play a big part in helping ensure a smooth transition.

Here are some ideas to help make this fall season an easier one. This can help make the back-to-school transition an enjoyable experience for you and your child.

Create and Nurture Parent-Teacher Relationships:

- Share pertinent information with your child's teachers every day at drop-off and pick-up times. Examples might be that your child did not sleep very long last night due to his grandparents arriving from out of town, or that your child is teething and is very fussy about eating right now. Ask questions to clarify any concerns that you may have. Keep the lines of communication open.
- Teachers are trained and prepared for tears and other emotional situations with young children. During the first few weeks of school (or however long it takes for your child to feel comfortable), arrive a bit early to help your child settle in. Allow the teacher to greet you and your child as you walk in. If you are calm and comfortable being there, your child will pick up on this, and feel more at ease as well.

Create a Daily Routine:

- Invite your child to help set out their clothes, pack their back pack, or choose a photo or favorite stuffed animal to take to school.
- In the morning, after you have greeted the teacher, sit down and do a quick puzzle, draw a picture, or read a short book to your child. Follow-up with a special good-bye ritual ... give a hug, blow two kisses, give a high-five, etc. If necessary, transition your child to the teacher and say good-bye. Never sneak-out on your child. This creates distrust and more anxiety for them.

- In the afternoon, read daily events posted by your child's teacher. Greet the teacher and then play for a brief moment with your child to help them transition out of their school day. Allow them time to finish up what they are doing. Talk with your child about what you read in the posted daily events.

- Create a routine with consistent drop-off and pick-up scheduled times. This reassures your child and offers you and the teacher a time frame to refer to. For example, the teacher can comfort your child by saying, "David, your Mom will be here after our afternoon outside time."

Be Confident and Supportive:

- Be positive and show confidence when you say good-bye to your child. Assure them they are safe, and let them know when they are going to be picked up, and by whom. For example, say, "Dad will be here to pick you up after you finish your afternoon snack." Keep it simple, but be specific with a timetable that they can relate to like afternoon snack or nap time.
- Be patient if your child has occasional emotional meltdowns. They also may exhibit past behaviors such as bedwetting, thumb sucking, clinging to your leg for resistance. This is normal transition behavior. With time, this old behavior will fade away.
- Encourage your child to talk about how they feel. Support their feelings and talk with your teacher or Director regarding books or ideas that can help them through this transition time.

Our goal at Tutor Time is to create a comfortable and welcoming environment for your child, while giving your child opportunities to play and learn.

Respectfully,
The Education Team

Creating Character

Over the course of the school year our LifeSmart™ classrooms use high-quality children's literature to explore the answer to the question what does it mean to be a person of character?

One of the books we will use this year is [The Big Orange Splot](#) by Daniel Manus Pinkwater. This book, while written many years ago, still provides many lessons about individuality and creativity for our world today. In this story, a man struggles to express himself even though his neighbors think he is crazy (which they also express in very creative ways). Instead of conforming to them, they eventually come around to see the wisdom of his creative self-expression.

Enjoy the fall season by spending time with your child drawing a picture of your family together.

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We also offer private guitar, voice or piano lessons for our school-age students. Visit the websites below to learn more and ask your Director about availability of these programs in your child's school.



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* Program availability varies.