

The Tutor Times™

September 2010

Ingredients for School Readiness

What do children really need to succeed?

Bring the Learning Experience Home

Fun, family activities to enhance your child's Smarts

Smart in Many Ways

See how each child learns in different ways



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

Fill a shoebox with items of a variety of textures (shower poof, rubber ball, dish towel, spoon, etc.). Sit with your little one and place the box in front of you. Explore the items together and talk about what you see.

Young Toddler

Put some water in a shallow dish and provide your child with different sponges. Play with the water and the sponges. Soak the water in and squeeze it out. Talk about what is happening as you play.

Older Toddler

Sit face-to-face on the floor with your child. Begin a simple motion (patting your legs, clapping your hands, etc.) and encourage your child to copy. Create a simple pattern (for example, hand clap, leg pat, hand clap, leg pat, etc.) and invite your child to copy. Now let your child be the leader.

Preschooler

Crumple newspaper into a ball and clear a table. Stand on one end of the table and ask your child to stand on the other. Hit the ball back and forth. How many times can you hit it without it falling off the table? Count how many hits you get and write them on a piece of paper.

School-Ager

Pick an area in your house (for example, a room or your backyard) and look around closely. Go to another room and work together to draw a picture of the area you selected. Try to remember and include as many details as possible. Walk back to the area when you are finished and compare your work to the real place. What did you forget? Add any new information to your drawing.

Smart in Many Ways

As a parent, you probably have been amazed at the individuality you notice in this small human being that you are raising. In some ways, your child is like other children. Most follow a fairly consistent developmental path. But, in so many other ways, your child is unlike any other that has ever graced the face of this planet. At Tutor Time, the foundation of our LifeSmart™ curriculum is creating a learning environment in which these wonderful differences are cultivated.

When you walk into a Tutor Time classroom, you may see children involved in many different activities. One child is preparing a meal in the Pretend Center for another child to enjoy. Another is looking at rocks and leaves with a magnifying glass in the Nature Center while describing what he sees. A third child is curled up on squishy pillows in the Me Center.

Our classrooms have many different centers and activities to meet the unique intelligences of each child. Harvard's Howard Gardner identified eight ways that people are intelligent. The Tutor Time LifeSmart curriculum is molded around eight "smarts" that are related to Howard Gardner's eight intelligences.

- **WordSmart™** – manipulates words, thinks out loud and tells stories
- **MathSmart™** – manipulates numbers, approaches problems logically and knows how things work
- **DesignSmart™** – thinks 3-dimensionally, studies maps, draws and paints

- **MusicSmart™** – plays with music and duplicates patterns and rhythms
- **BodySmart™** – moves, uses body language and participates in physical activities
- **NatureSmart™** – cares for living things, enjoys being outside and is "in tune" with nature
- **PeopleSmart™** – works in groups, interacts with others, facilitates and leads
- **MeSmart™** – works alone, is introspective and focuses inward

Tutor Time provides your child with many different ways to become a smart kid and to express his individuality. As you look around the classroom, you will notice the children are provided with hands-on learning activities, different centers to choose to work in, and a teacher trained in implementing the LifeSmart curriculum.

Over the next eight months, you will be provided with a series of articles that explore each smart in detail. As you read about the different smarts, think about your child and how he shows you how smart he is. Does your son spend time building ramps or drawing pictures? Does your baby reach to others to be held or smile when seeing people in the store? Does your toddler jump, hop, run, and dance? As you think about all of the different things your child does, you will notice all of the different ways he is smart.

Ingredients for School Readiness

Across the country, there is increasing pressure on families to ensure that their children are "ready for school." The question that we hear quite frequently is, "What do children truly need to prepare for to ensure that they are successful in kindergarten and beyond?"

Many families and teachers of young children believe that preparing children for school means that they have to teach about colors, shapes, letters and numbers. While it is important that children have active experiences with these concepts, research tells us that there are other things that are more important predictors of school success.

Studies reveal that there are seven key ingredients for school readiness. Each of the following ingredients / traits is a free gift that Tutor Time can provide for a child's future.

- **Confidence** – We want children to feel self-assured of what they are capable of and be ready to confront the challenges that they might find. You can help build your child's confidence by offering specific comments on times that you have seen them be successful. For example, "You worked really hard on getting that sock on right. You twisted it and finally got it to fit. You are a smart problem-solver."
- **Curiosity** - It is essential that children have a desire to discover and learn about the world. As one early childhood expert said, it is not only our job to teach, but to ignite in children the desire to learn. We want to implant in our children an insatiable desire to know "why" and to figure out more about the world. Support the development of curiosity by asking your child questions that begin with, "What do you think would happen if..." or starting conversations with, "I wonder..."
- **Purpose** - Children need to be purposeful in their actions. This means that they need to be able to make a plan and take actions to make that plan happen. You can help provide a sense of purpose by involving your child in simple household tasks and making them feel like a productive member of the family unit.
- **Self-control** - Children who have the ability to recognize and regulate their emotions are much more likely to be successful in group learning environments. It is important to give children the opportunity to experience and discuss all emotions, even those that we as adults might find "negative," such as anger or sadness. We can help children recognize and understand these emotions as well as discover appropriate ways to express them.

- **Relationships** - Successful children have a sense that they are part of a community and that they are connected to other people. Families can help children feel like they are part of a larger community by learning the names of and maintaining relationships with extended family, neighbors, other Tutor Time families, people who work in your neighborhood, etc.

- **Communication** - The ability to receive and share ideas is a key factor in the future educational success of a child. Take time every day to talk with your child (as opposed to only to your child). Ask open-ended questions to start conversations, these are questions that cannot be answered with a simple one-word answer or with a nod or shake of the head.

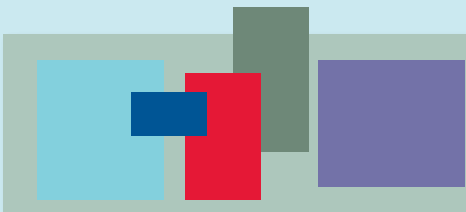
- **Cooperation** - The ability to get along and work with others is vital for a child's success in kindergarten, elementary school, and beyond.

Through simple daily interactions, families can help their child develop these seven ingredients. Provide the gift of communication by engaging your child in conversations (ask questions to extend the topic). Develop a sense of purpose by asking your child to make a plan about what she wants to do after dinner one evening and then support her in making that plan a reality. Build confidence by supporting your child in solving a problem and then talk with her about what went well in the problem-solving process.

Each one of these key ingredients provides children with a piece of the puzzle that ultimately results in success in kindergarten, elementary school and beyond. It's important to note that children who develop these seven traits are much more likely to not only do well in kindergarten, but to also graduate from high school, go on to college and do well in other aspects of life, professionally and interpersonally.

At Tutor Time, we are committed to providing your child with the three basic R's (reading, writing and arithmetic) as well as supporting your child in developing each one of these important traits. We create active experiences, stimulating environments, and thought-provoking interactions to give your child all that she needs to be successful in today's world.





One Free Week Parent Referral Program

As participants of the Parent Referral Program, the referring and referred families listed below are entitled to **ONE FREE WEEK OF TUITION** at our school. Thank you for being a part of the Tutor Time® family.

Referring/Current Family:

Parent's Name

Referred/Future Family:

Parent's Name Child's Name

Parent's Address Parent's Phone Number

Date of Enrollment

*Offer valid at this location only. Subject to availability, offer available only to those accounts paying full tuition in advance. Not valid with any other discount or offer. Referred family must enroll for a minimum of three half days per week. Offer valid only for families who have not been previously enrolled at Tutor Time. Applicable on tuition for each child in referred family if more than one child is enrolled. Referring (current) family will receive free week after referred (new) family has been enrolled for four weeks. Referred (new) family will receive free week after being enrolled for four weeks. Offer not valid for Learning Care group associates or their immediate families. Code: ReferFRWK



Did you know that we now offer Spanish lessons, as well as music, exercise and computer classes for toddlers and preschoolers?

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.

MUZZY
www.early-advantage.com


TakeLessons
www.takelessons.com

Created by Yogi Blyden, International
ABC Music & Me
www.abcmusicandme.com


Imagine Tomorrow
Computer Classes for Early Learners
www.imaginetomorrow.com


Stretch-n-Grow
www.stretch-n-grow.com

* Program availability varies.