

What is a great tutor?

It is a fundamental fact that anyone could be a tutor- find a topic that you are knowledgeable on and that, apparently, will suffice.

It does not suffice at Starr Tutoring.

Anyone, likewise, could be a good tutor. If you can turn up to a lesson unprepared and yet still manage to teach your student something, that' s a success, right? It is not a success.

It takes someone special, willing to go the extra mile for their students to ensure that student' s needs are met, to make sure that their individual targets are met whilst still having fun.

Starr Tutoring aims to help people **become a great tutor**, someone that will stand out amongst other tutors when a potential parent is looking for a tutor for their child.

Could you be a great tutor?

Are you willing to go that extra mile? Make each lesson relevant to the individual student, plan lessons in advance and then share them with the tutee/ their family so they can see what you have planned and how they are progressing? Are you willing to teach each individual according to their own unique learning styles?

If you can answer yes to all of these questions, then we can help you to become a great tutor.

How do I become a great tutor?

There are numerous steps that must be provisionally taken in order to become a successful tutor, even before you begin your first lesson.

Marketing your business- In order to not only make potential tutees aware of your services, but also to portray a professional and adequate image of yourself, marketing your business in the correct way is essential in presenting yourself as someone who is a great tutor, even before you have begun. Creating a website (numerous firms offer this service online e.g. Wordpress) creates a more professional presentation of your services. But perhaps most importantly, one of the best forms of marketing is word of mouth. Creating a positive impact on someone will lead them to tell their friends about you.

Creating a positive impression can be the best form of marketing there is, and Starr Tutoring was in fact built largely upon recommendations and positive feedback.

Writing policies- Once you have made initial contact with a prospective tutee, it is important to draw up policies in order for a successful and consistent relationship to be had between tutor, tutee and their family. Factors include fee (should be negotiated and agreed before the first lesson), time and day of lesson (should be the same each week) and also a cancellation time (both tutors and tutees should give a fair amount of time before a lesson is cancelled). If policies can be made before tutoring begins then this also allows for a smooth running and a more successful tutoring process to be had.

Teaching styles- When it comes to tutoring there are numerous different teaching styles that could be used. However, there is a difference what could be used and what should be used, as some styles of teaching are far more effective and efficient, as well as more fun, in comparison to others. Whilst giving a student pages and pages of questions to answer in silence may mean easy preparation, the chances of the student enjoying themselves whilst learning is minimal. Depending upon factors such as age, subject and time until exams, teaching styles can be adapted in order to get the most out of the child and ensure they make the most progress possible.

Structuring a lesson- It is important to provide structure to your lesson, which would be planned before you arrived at the lesson. Planning how long approximately each activity will take will ensure a smooth running of the lesson. It is also important when structuring a lesson to include a different variety of activities e.g. if you were to play a game, then getting the student to answer questions on what they have learnt afterwards would provide both variation and consolidation of learning.

Making the lesson relevant to the individual student's needs- What makes a great tutor is someone who will not generalise their own way of learning to all others e.g. if you find that reading information is the best way to learn it, this may not be the same for everyone e.g. listening and writing may be more effective. Being able to cater your lessons to suit each individual child is also essential to becoming a great tutor. You could be teaching two children the same thing e.g. photosynthesis for Biology, yet being able to teach this in different ways, in order to suit the individual child's own personal needs, is essential.

Getting initial details and what details to take- Before you arrive at the first lesson it is necessary to attain necessary details so when you arrive for the lesson, you are fully aware of the student's needs. It is important to take great care in listening to what the student and their family want and their own individual story. This is how you can make the lesson relevant and personalised towards the student. Some of the things that would be needed include:

📅 Age

📅 Subject

📅 Contact details

Making that first impression- When you arrive at your first lesson, what is the impression you want to give? Someone who could easily pass for someone who has just walked in from the street? Turning up with nothing with them except a pen and a pretence that they can 'blag' their way through the lesson? That is not the first impression a great tutor would want to give.

Costs involved in tutoring: time, mileage, stationary, etc. It is true that becoming a tutor is a significant investment, and tutoring can either be a part time or fulltime occupation; nevertheless, there are some things that must be considered when becoming a tutor. Planning and organising lessons can take significant time- particularly at first when you have no previous resources to use- as well as the mileage of driving to student' s houses and the cost of resources over time. However, these are all still minimal when taking into consideration the potential revenue that can be accrued.

Creating resources- Very often in order to tailor games to suit each individual child, creating a game yourself is in fact the most effective method to use, as opposed to finding ready- made resources and purchasing them elsewhere. Games can be made to suit the lesson objectives e.g. a 'snakes and ladders' game with the 7x table, if that is what is being taught that lesson. Resources can be created very cheaply if done properly and efficiently.

