



Tips for Homework Helpers

The qualities you need to succeed with your student were the ones you walked in with.

Like everything else, it still comes down to relationships...and teamwork.

Patience, flexibility, and sense of humor are essential virtues.

Also...be sure you like kids. They will know if you don't.

Remember what you liked about your favorite teachers. Draw on those qualities.

Remember that you are teaching in a service format that teachers would die for: one-to-one tutoring.

Remember that, given this format, good things happen. For the first time ever, the child may be learning at his/her own pace, own goals, and own starting place.

Help the young people get organized.

Decide if you are dealing with a subject matter problem or literacy problem. You can address both...but...the literacy challenges have to be addressed...by someone.

For second-language students...language is acquired...not learned. Immersion is good.

You don't need to know the student's first language. In fact, knowing that first-language has its disadvantages.

Use the teach-back method. Have the kids teach you what you just taught them.

Know that, in reality, the young people really want you to do their homework for them. Don't do it! The one who does the work does the learning.

Put the learner in the driver's seat.

Put the emphasis on learning...not teaching. The child decides when the teaching will happen.

Get in the habit of getting your student straight to work...but check on their well-being first.

Know your learning style. Know the child's learning style.

Teach to the child's learning style...not to your own.

And remember that in a one-day training...you will not become a reading specialist.

Know that you are making a difference.

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