



BAINBRIDGE
YOUTH SERVICES

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Quick Tips for Tutors

- **Get to know your tutees.** Relax and enjoy yourself. Remember you want to establish a friendly, comfortable environment.
- **Be Patient.** You may have to go over material more than once, but don't be discouraged. Remember, give the students time to think through questions and problems before you give them the correct answer.
- **Be punctual** and bring all the necessary materials.
- **Encourage.** Say things like "you got this" and "you are such a hard-worker". Avoid saying "this is easy" or "you are so smart".
- **Give lots of praise.** When students do well, tell them. Be specific about the praise. (Great job with that equation!)
- **Admit it if you don't know an answer.** We don't expect you to know everything. If you make a mistake, admit it. You can refer the student to an instructor/TA, or try to find the answer before the next tutoring session.
- **Listen.** Give your full attention to the students. Actively listen to what they are saying, then paraphrase what they have said. This displays your interest in the tutee's learning process.
- **Inform.**
- **Make learning interesting.** Use a variety of ways to explain the material and show your enthusiasm. Try to make the material more relevant to the tutee's life. See if you can present things in a different perspective than they were presented in class.
- **Avoid asking "yes" and "no" questions.** They don't help anyone. Instead of "Do you understand what photosynthesis is?" say "Explain the process."
- **Turn Questions Back.** What do you think about that? Or how would you approach that?
- **Ask questions** the tutee can answer as well as harder ones.
- **Display your excitement about the material.**