



Reading Counts



Managing Your Tutoring Session

Jennifer Joseph

Team Leader - Mt. Morris

As tutors, we want to create the best possible learning environment for our students. In doing so, we must be familiar with strategies to maintain and manage student behavior, so that we can facilitate learning and not harp on behavior issues. Here are a few tips and strategies to Tutor-tutee management.

- Create a comfortable environment with your tutee. Students will behave if they respect you, feel comfortable with you, and enjoy working with you.
- One of the best strategies to manage behavior is to increase appropriate behavior. For example, you may want to try a *token economy reinforcement program*. In this program, you identify a specific target behavior that you would like your tutee to improve upon, and reward them immediately with a token, slip of paper, sticker, or something else small, for them to accumulate. Once they accumulate a certain number, then they may redeem them for something tangible later.

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Stephanie Osborne with a group from Geneseo Central

Dear Stacy - Advice for Tutors

Stacy Jusianiac

Team Leader - Dansville

Dear Stacy,

I am a new tutor in the America Reads program. I am going to be working with one student and would like to have a fun book to read with him. Do you have any suggestions for a good book for a sort of 'ice breaker' or just a good read?

Thanks,
"Needs a Book"

Dear "Needs a Book",

A great book for younger ages, that is excellent for introduction of new environments or activities is called Tiptoe Into Kindergarten by Jacqueline Rogers. This book is about a pre-schooler who is fearful of kindergarten and this new environment. The pre-schooler realizes that it's actually a great time and there is so much to do and loves kindergarten. You could use this book if this is your first time working with the student or if he/she is new to the school or grade. You can modify the feelings of fear that the character has to any situation and have a great discussion afterwards.

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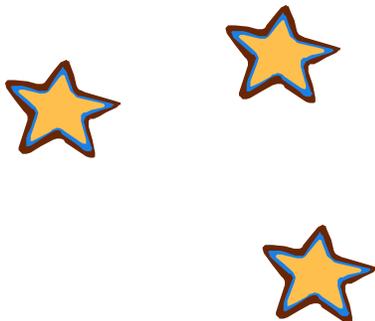
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- Much like the token economy, I have come up with a “game” to keep students on task and behaving appropriately. When working with my students, they receive a *connect the dots* picture (with 10 dots or so).
- Each time they are on task, behave well, or complete a task well, the student gets to move themselves forward by connecting the dot. Once the student reaches the end and connects all the dots, they are rewarded with a sticker or small prize of some sort. This really works because the kids like that it is a game and really want to get to the end and win. This also enables them to be involved in managing their own behavior. The game should span over several tutor sessions, so that the student doesn't expect a reward each time that you come.
- Here are some rewards that are simple, but that most children appreciate when they have had a great tutoring session with you!
 - A happy face or star
 - A sticker
 - A positive note to the teacher or home
 - An award certificate
 - Reading their favorite book with you
 - Prizes
 - And most importantly...words of encouragement and praise!

As tutors, we want to create an environment where students can learn and can have fun learning! Hope these tips may help to make your tutoring sessions better managed and more productive and fun!



Dear Stacy, *continued from page 1*

Another great book for ages 9-12 is What Are You So Grumpy About? by Tom Lichtenheld. This is a funny book that talks about certain things that occur daily or at times that may anger or annoy someone. This book can relate to children and individuals of all ages. You could use this book for explaining that you cannot let things or bothersome times get the best of you. If you suspect that a student is in a sad mood or just having a bad day, this is the perfect book! This is one of my favorites as it will certainly put a smile on your face and lighten up your day!

Hope this helps,
Stacy

If anyone is in a time crunch or just does not have time to travel to the library to browse children's books, a great idea is visiting book store websites. Barnes&Noble.com is a great site to help in searching for books of all levels and topics. You can find a summary of the books, as well as other books by the author. I would like to remind you all that Milne Library and Wadsworth Library both have a great children's section. You can also try the schools you are tutoring at and the teacher you are working with to browse his/her book collection. Also, America Counts/Reads has a book collection in the Student Employment Service office.



Ideas and Activities

Valentine's Day Math Games...Struck by Cupid's Arrows

Emily Tatar

Team Leader - Livonia

During holiday seasons, students are more enthusiastic about games and activities that relate to a specific holiday. These types of activities absorb their attention and give them reasons to be excited about mathematics and learning. Here are a few ideas for some math games that tutors can play with their tutees when Valentine's Day rolls around.

- Heart Memory

This game can be played with partners, small groups or with a whole class. Give students cut-out heart stencils about index card size and then have them each cut out 20 hearts. Next, give students a worksheet with 10 different times (1:30, 4:45, 11:10, etc.), and 10 different clocks, making each time match the time on a clock. They will cut out the times and the clocks and paste each one on the back of a separate heart, and write a "T" or a "C" (for Time or Clock) on the opposite side of the heart. Finally, students each have their own set of memory cards and can play with one set with a partner or combine sets with a larger group.

- Sweet Multipliers

Students can work in pairs, groups or individually for this activity. The materials needed are an egg carton, conversation heart candies, and a recording sheet. Students will place one dozen candies into the egg carton, shut the carton and shake it up. When they open the carton, the number of candies on the top row will be recorded and then the number on the bottom row will also be recorded. Those two numbers will be multiplied together and the answer will be placed on the recording sheet. This process will be repeated until the blanks on the sheet are filled up. Tutors can give this game a twist by timing students and giving prizes to students who are fastest or most accurate.

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Valentine's Day Can Help Make Reading Fun

Stephanie Osborne

Team Leader - Geneseo

Reading books about holiday themes is a wonderful way to get students excited about reading. Whether the books are fiction or non-fiction, students will love to read books about holidays that they know and love.

Since Valentine's Day focuses on the universal theme of love, Valentine's Day books are a great way to reinforce sharing, being kind to one another, and other important characteristics of showing love toward one another. With Valentine's Day just around the corner, here are some enjoyable Valentine's Day books you can read with students you tutor:

Books for First Graders:

Somebody Loves You, Mr. Hatch by Eileen Spinelli

Synopsis: Anti-social Mr. Hatch never smiles or acts friendly to anybody, so who sent him a huge box of chocolates for Valentine's Day? The answer will surprise you. This is a charming book with a powerful message. The importance of love and kindness comes through loud and clear. Even very young children will understand how good it is to feel loved and how important it is to help others.

Too Many Valentines, by Margaret McNamara (part of the Robin Hill School series)

Synopsis: This story centers on class preparations for Valentine's Day and one little boy, Neil, who says, "I get too many Valentines. I do not want any more." See how the class honors his feelings and still includes him in the celebration.

Books for Second and Third Graders:

It's Valentine's Day, by Jack Prelutsky

Synopsis: This is a collection of 14 poems celebrating February 14th, including "I Made My Dog a Valentine" and "I Love You More Than Applesauce". These humorous story poems cover a wide range of emotions: from the love of family, pets, and friends to the awkward love/hate relationships that develop between pre-adolescent boys and girls.

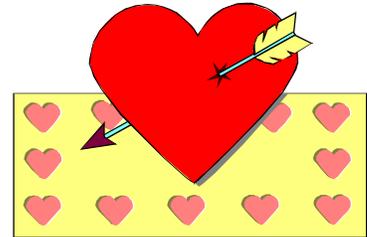
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Here is a fun game/activity for you to do, or to pass along to teachers and students.

Valentine's Day

S A I W K C F V X S I S
 F R I E N D S H I P C T
 H X E L S Y M F C V H R
 K E O W D M E S A S O A
 C V A N O B I K R E C E
 E K A R R L U H D B O H
 D C K U T T F I G Z L F
 V E A C U P I D P E A W
 Q R R L I N L P E K T Y
 Y A S N O O L L A B E J

BALLOONS	FLOWERS
CANDY	FRIENDSHIP
CARD	GIFT
CHOCOLATE	HEARTS
CUPID	LOVE
FEBRUARY	RED



Math Games, *continued from page 3*

- Conversation Heart Quick Games:
 Ask students to estimate the amount of candy in the jar and write down the number. Ask how many hundreds, tens and ones in that number. Do a few different jars and play around with different place values by taking some out of the jar or adding some to it.

Create a graphing sheet to graph hearts on a bar graph by color or message. Give students the choice of using other types of graphs to see which one is easiest to compare. Create a pie graph by gluing hearts around a paper plate by color. Color in pie graph wedges to match color.

Create Greater or Less than problems by having students count candy by colors. For example: Which is greater? Pink and Yellow together? Or White and Orange? All of these games are fun ways for students to learn, review and maintain math knowledge and still have a good time. The activities can be altered depending on grade level by simply replacing content with material that is difficult or easier.

Reading Fun, *continued from page 3*

Valentine's Day, by Anne F. Rockwell

Synopsis: This story takes place in Mrs. Madoff's elementary school class. The children in her class come from a variety of cultures and backgrounds. In the story, the students' create Valentine's Day cards for their friend Michiko, who lives thousands of miles away in Japan. Note: There are over 200 hearts in this book. See if you can find them all!

Books for Fourth and Fifth Graders:

213 Valentines, by Barbara Cohen

Synopsis: In this entertaining story, Wade has trouble adjusting when he is transferred to a special fourth grade class for the gifted and talented, so he plans to send himself 213 valentines signed by celebrities. Read this book with students and see how his plan works out.

St. Valentine's Day, by Clyde Robert Bulla

Synopsis: Who was St. Valentine, anyway? In this non-fictional book you will read about how Valentine's Day evolved over the centuries and who wrote the very first valentine. You will also find a delicious cookie recipe in this book that students will be excited to try!