

Five Things Tutors and Students Should Do During the First Tutoring Session

Thank you again for serving as a *Birdsong* Tutor. We recommend that you spend some of your first tutoring session on getting to know the student you will be working with and answering some administrative questions.

Discuss Administrative Issues (a parent should participate in this discussion)

- Discuss your availability for tutoring -- once a week twice a week etc.?
- How long will each session be?
- What day and time are good for both of you for the tutoring sessions?
- Will the student need to get information to the tutor prior to the session? How will that information be shared? For example, if there is a math worksheet that needs to get done, can they scan it and email it to you?

Establish a Personal Rapport

- A successful tutoring situation is one wherein the tutor and the student have great rapport.
- During the first session, you should spend about five to ten minutes just getting to know your student.
- Possible questions for you to ask to learn more about him/her:
 - What things motivate or excite you?
 - How does remote learning work at your school?
 - What TV shows or books do you like, etc.?
 - What do you like to do outside of school -- sports, hobbies, music etc.?
 - Share with them a little bit about yourself and background?

Ask Questions

To help assess your student's skills and understanding of a subject, ask questions about the subject with which they struggle. Some questions you should consider asking are:

- Confirm the subject that will you be working on during your sessions?
- What do you like most about this subject?
- What do you like least about this subject?
- Where do you experience the most challenges in this course? Completing homework, studying for tests/quizzes? Taking tests/quizzes?
- What do you think you will find most challenging about the content/course?

Two things you should consider doing at the end of each tutoring session.

- **Build some time into the end of the tutoring session for a recap.**
Verbally go over the material you've just covered at the end of each lesson. Have your student recite the main points and key takeaways. It may sound repetitive, but talking out loud about a concept often helps it stick.
- **Be sure to ask for feedback!**
Finally, always ask for input at the end of a lesson. If your student is truly motivated, they will tell you what they want or need more help with. They might ask for some new material or tell you to pick up the pace! Asking for a student's feedback can also strengthen your relationship and help you become more comfortable working with one another.