



Da Vinci Learning Center

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Description of Services:

We provide small group tutoring (1-5 students), in-person, in public facilities (schools or libraries) and 1:1 tutoring online in the student's home. Group tutoring is very helpful for shy students who prefer a friend to try something before they do. It also enables more confident students to test their knowledge of a topic by occasionally tutoring tutorial mates. Only in this setting, do we allow students of different grade levels to work together and only if those grade levels are within 1 grade of each other. In general, it enables a higher grade student to refresh his/her knowledge of the older material and allows a younger student to see what is forthcoming in their academic career.

We employ the internet for home-based students to eliminate extensive traveling for both our instructors and our students' parents. There is no difference in quality of tutoring with our internet model as will be shown later in the online section with graphics and again in the testimonial section.

Each student starts our program with an assessment to determine their current skill level and that is where the tutoring begins.

Description of Instructor Qualifications:

Our main hiring requirements are that a prospective tutor have an outstanding academic record in their chosen subject and at least one full year of tutoring experience. Credentials in the tutoring subject are preferred but not required. Each must submit to an FBI/DOJ background check and TB test prior to being interviewed for a position and each must attend a 2-day training session prior to the start of the program. They are later required to attend monthly conference calls for ongoing training in the program and to submit monthly progress reports to the main office. These reports are also sent to the student's family in their native language.

Description of Evidence of Effectiveness:

Over the past two years (2005/6 and 2006/7), out of the 718 families that chose our SES program, we served 521 or 72.6% (521/718). Of those 521 students we served, 459 or 88.1% (459/521) completed the program. To participate and complete the program, each student was required to be tested at the start of the program and retested on the same exam at the end of the program. Upon completion of the program, results showed that (426/459) or 92.8% of these students had at least a 15% rise over their prior scores.

For our math program, the test used was the California Standard Test (CST-a well respected standardized test) and the average increase in student score across all grades tested (3-8) was 25%. This is taken from data recorded since 2005.

Our language arts students were treated the same way with the average increase being 22%.

Kindergartners were tested on consonant-vowel-consonant recognition and mastery of high frequency words. First graders were tested in basic reading and ability to write short sentences and second graders in comprehension, writing sentences and short paragraphs. Older students were tested in vocabulary, comprehension and essay writing.