

TUTORING SESSIONS

For optimum success, we recommend that students work with tutors twice per week. Fewer sessions do not allow enough practice and feedback to develop the necessary connections in the brain that underlie the acquisition of new skills. In some cases, even more intensive work may be recommended to help students get an initial jump on a particular learning challenge.

All sessions are arranged to take place at a location that is mutually convenient for the family and the tutor. Some tutors see clients in the Stixrud offices, some work with students during the day at school (when permitted), some work out of their own homes, and some will travel to the student's home or to a mutually agreed upon place such as a public library. Tutors are also available to meet with the student's teacher or counselor to discuss his or her progress.

THE RIGHT MATCH

We look at a number of factors to make sure we find the right tutor for each student. Results from recent neuropsychological, psychological, and psychoeducational evaluations are extremely helpful for identifying areas of need, as well as for matching a student with an appropriate tutor. At a minimum, we want information from academic achievement testing to help guide us. We have an educational diagnostician and a psychologist available for testing, consultation, and tutoring recommendations, when necessary.

In addition to the information about each student's particular tutoring needs, we also will take into account other important considerations to help us select the most appropriate tutor. We will discuss the level and type of training and experience required, the student's personality and his or her interest—or reluctance—about tutoring, and logistical considerations (e.g., location) to ensure a convenient match.

GETTING STARTED

To find out more about our specialized, one-on-one tutoring services for students with educational disabilities, please visit our website (www.stixrud.com) or call our office at **301-565-0534** and ask to speak with a Tutoring Service staff member, or leave a message in the Tutoring Service voice mail box.

WILLIAM R. STIXRUD, Ph.D. TUTORING SERVICES

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TUTORING SERVICES

William R. Stixrud, Ph.D. Tutoring Services was created to help students faced with learning disabilities, learning style differences, attention disorders, or organizational difficulties. These students often fall through the cracks—and fall behind. They need one-on-one instruction in order to learn strategies that can help them become competent and confident learners. William R. Stixrud, Ph.D. Tutoring Services has helped hundreds of students build their self-esteem and their academic abilities simultaneously.

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OVER FIFTEEN YEARS TUTORING STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES

Dr. Stixrud began the Tutoring Service over 15 years ago to provide specialized interventions for students with educational disabilities, after finding through his neuropsychological evaluation practice that these students often were not helped by traditional teaching and tutoring methods. The Tutoring Service provides tutors who are trained in cutting-edge approaches for remediating academic difficulties. Of equal importance, our tutors focus on students' strengths and work to promote resilience and positive feelings about their ability to learn and succeed.

SPECIALIZED FOCUS, EXCELLENT RESULTS

Certainly many schools and teachers are committed to helping all of their students do well and provide individualized attention during the regular classroom day whenever possible. However, research has found that individuals with academic difficulties experience the most successful intervention through one-on-one tutoring that provides:

- A personalized and specialized approach to address the student's particular challenges
- Intense and focused attention to learn and develop new skills
- Emotional support to push through difficult tasks and obstacles
- An atmosphere that focuses on students' strengths and encourages them to become active, independent learners

We thus work one-on-one with students to develop specific skills and strategies that will improve their school learning and the quality of their schoolwork.

WHY STIXRUD TUTORING SERVICES?

Our approach to working with students is based on a neuropsychological model of academic skill development, which our tutors learn from Dr. Stixrud as part of their training. Basic knowledge about brain functioning helps our tutors understand why kids learn easily or struggle — and how to better support them through brain-based teaching strategies. Our tutors in turn explain to their students how acquiring new skills affects their brains — and also how to “take care of their own brains” so that they can learn and perform better (e.g., through proper sleep and stress management).

Dr. Stixrud continuously studies new approaches and integrates the most promising techniques into his tutors' toolkits in order to bring the latest strategies to students. While grounded in the scientific study of learning and learning disorders, our approach also places enormous emphasis on caring and empathy to support the student, and all Stixrud tutors subscribe to the philosophy of “giving more than you get.”

Our tutors bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to their clients, and they represent a wide array of specialties and personalities to select for tutoring matches. Each Stixrud tutor has a minimum of a bachelor's degree, as well as specialized training through our Strategies That Work tutor training program. Dr. Stixrud created this program, which is offered annually, to train tutors in cutting-edge approaches for working with students with educational disabilities. It has been beneficial to both prospective and experienced tutors, as well as to classroom teachers, psychologists, and other professionals who want to become familiar with state-of-the-art academic interventions.

Stixrud tutors also receive ongoing education and support, including in-service workshops from Dr. Stixrud and his associates. Additional training and support is gained from other professional seminars and workshops that offer new information on techniques, strategies, and tools.

SUBJECT AREAS AND SERVICES

We help kids at all levels, from the early elementary grades through middle school, high school, and into college. Much of our tutoring focuses on improving skills in reading and written language, and on facilitating the acquisition of organizational, study, and test-taking skills. Also, because high-school level math and science courses and SAT preparation can pose a particular challenge for students with educational disabilities, we have tutors who concentrate in these areas. We additionally have tutors who specialize in elementary and middle school math and science, and in other traditional academic subjects at all grade levels, including social studies and English and literature. Each tutor may specialize in one or more areas in which he or she has received specialized training to work with students with academic difficulties.

Whatever the specific area or areas of need, our tutors try to address the underlying processing weaknesses that cause our students to struggle. They develop a specialized course of tutoring accordingly, which includes:

- Skill and strategy development, such as specific strategies to improve reading comprehension or step-by-step methodologies to teach students to organize and produce clear, comprehensive written work
- Teaching students to generalize the strategies they learn to new academic and real-life situations
- Helping students experience more interest in and motivation to do their work
- Building relationships with students who have been frustrated and discouraged about learning
- Using cognitive and behavioral techniques to help students become more efficient in planning and completing work