

Tips for Tutors

- 1) **Ask for assistance** from the CIS Program Staff for help navigating coursework or managing student's learning.
- 2) **Pay Attention to the student's need for fun!** Students love to take a break from the seriousness of the school day. Take 5-10 minutes to talk about their interests, this allows you to naturally find avenues to engage in between academic coursework.
- 3) **Take breaks.** Have a restless student do 15 jumping jacks. Get a drink of water. Play hangman. Student attention spans are usually around 5-10 minutes.
- 4) **Listen & Empathize.** Students are not used to adults who give them the benefit of the doubt, truly listen to their concerns, and encourage positive behavior.
- 5) **Don't take student behaviors personally.** Just like adults, students have good days and bad days, and often test limits to make sure that their Tutor won't give up on them.
- 6) **Patience, Patience, Patience.** Many students are tempted to give up on school, especially if they've previously tried and failed at a subject. Be patient with a frustrated student. You may be their last effort before dropping out or giving up at school. They may have no one else cheering them on.
- 7) **Be flexible!** The school environment is constantly changing, and so is your student.
- 8) **Minimize Distractions.** Clear tables of unnecessary items. Allow restless students to doodle or play with a small manipulative (this actually helps many students both listen and retain information!
- 9) **Support English language learners** by using actions, hand motions, and pictures to reinforce what you say. Ask students to repeat back directions. Speak slowly and clearly. Instead of correcting language mistakes, echo the sentence with correct usage:
 - *Student:* "There was so much people at the store!" *Tutor:* "Wow! There were so many people at the store!"
- 10) **Be the Adult:** As a role model, it's important to demonstrate positive social skills and boundaries: Admit mistakes; Say you're sorry; Ask for help or clarification when needed; Communicate effectively.
- 11) **Celebrates Small Successes**
 - The student turned in their homework? Whoo hoo!
 - The student raised their hand in class? Yippee!
 - The student read a book last week? Yee Haw!

Effective Tutoring:

- Builds a healthy and meaningful relationship with students.
- Assists students in understanding subject matter so they can meet academic standards.
- Helps students build study techniques that will permit them to study effectively and become independent, self-directed learners.