

# Academic Learning Center

## F.A.T. City Summary

- Strategies that can be implemented into tutoring sessions:
  - Giving them plenty of time to answer a question and making sure to avoid speed talking. Without this time, they feel overwhelmed and pressured.
  - Do not overload the student with information. You need to be patient and take each question one step at a time.
  - Direct instruction is important for students because it explains information clearly and step-by-step.
  - Tutors should not rush the student to come up with answers and allow them time to think of responses.
  - Tutors should provide an anxiety free environment. Pressuring a student to give answers or mocking the student for giving a wrong answer is not a helpful technique while teaching. Students should be calm and not afraid to talk things out with you or give wrong responses. Also, tutors should not use sarcasm with the students because sometimes it can be taken the wrong way.
  - By showing patience and "giving the gift of time" students can process the information and comprehend the material in their own way.
  - Tutors should "reinforce/recognition/reward" students for their success and not penalize them for their mistakes. Tutors should encourage the process of being correct and help, not mock the incorrect answers.
  - It is important to go through lessons and explanations of concepts slowly in order to allow time for students to fully process the information.
  - In certain situations teaching through visuals or auditory explanations is helpful to try.
  - It is important to understand that what might seem easy to me may not be easy. Thus insulting or belittling students is not a good way to encourage them to learn. Instead tutors should patiently explain how the problems should be done.
  - Reading instructions aloud to a student are sometimes much more effective than having them read them on their own.

- Create a pressure free environment. Let a student feel that it is okay to take as much time as they need. If they don't have that they will get frustrated and give up, never having the time to figure out the answer for themselves which is the whole point of learning.
- Interesting concepts learned from watching the film:
  - Just because a tutoree is taking awhile to answer the question I ask, does not mean they do not understand and I should ask another question. It is more likely that the student is translating what I am asking into their own language to better understand before answering.
  - Although I was not in the audience, I feel as though I was able to better understand firsthand what it may feel like to have a learning disability. One can only gain so much information from reading a text book, but to actually experience many of the feelings and emotions students with learning disabilities endure is an entirely different matter. Although this film was created some years ago, the message still rings true that we should all make the effort to help LD students in whatever way possible.
  - Towards the end of the video the lecturer said potentially the most important thing that "time is the greatest gift we can give to a child with a learning disability." To me this implies the most important discipline in all of education: patience. Any time one is trying to teach someone anything, patience seems to be of utmost importance. Learning happens at a different pace for everyone, so teaching must be done with that consideration. This is the most applicable lesson that I will take away from the movie.
  - I was also struck by the negative effects that sarcasm, lack of positive reinforcement, and yelling can have on a student. We want our students to be risk takers and to look us in the eyes and to feel comfortable in our rooms. If these are things we want, why do we discourage them by using sarcasm, not reinforcing good answers and behavior and being calm. Additionally, it makes sense to me that students with learning disabilities will be the first to point out mistakes in others and be the class clowns.
  - It seems that awareness is key. If six to ten percent of our children in classrooms have learning disabilities, we must be sensitive to their issues and learn to work with them. Simple strategies like the lecturer suggested can be implemented and we can teach mainstream. We just have to be aware.
  - The movie was definitely eye opening to me about how some students can really struggle with learning in a classroom setting even when they are doing all that they can to attempt success.

- One thing that really stood out to me was how often the moderator (if that's what you call him) stepped back and pointed out how the participants had so quickly fallen into the role of a typical student with learning disabilities -- e.g., saying "I don't know", avoiding eye contact, emphasizing the faults of others.
- I learned that "fairness" does not mean that every, single person should be receiving the same treatment. Instead, it means that everyone should be getting the things that they need. If someone needs, the additional time to understand something that should be given to them even if others don't think that it is fair.
- As a sister to a student with a learning disability, I knew firsthand how difficult it could be for these students to get through the day and for their parents to interact with teachers.
- I think that this video did an excellent job of showing exactly what problems exist and then what can be done to deflect those problems.
- Having a sister who is learning disabled, I knew that teaching a learning disabled child would be a little different and a little more difficult.
- I found this film to be very educational. It opened my eyes to just how frustrating learning can be for some people. I felt a similar way when taking a test about something that I never studied.
- This movie does a great job of explaining how a LD child struggles to understand what is happening in the world around them.
- I learned from watching the video that it's not always obvious which students in a classroom have a learning disability. What may at first seem like a disruptive student may actually be a lack of understanding by the child.
- I work with a student who says he has a learning disorder related to an inability to quickly process auditory information. I didn't really understand what that meant as far as HOW I should teach him until I saw this video. Now I make sure to do a lot of writing exercises as a way to keep the teaching style comfortable for him. When we do have to practice skills relate to speaking, I make sure to speak clearly, give him plenty of time to take in each word, and give him plenty of time to respond.
- I also felt strongly about the lesson on perception. I feel that many students who come to seek help are simply looking for a different perspective on the topic they have trouble with. Since as a tutor I've taken the classes that I'm tutoring, I know how the professor taught the information. From this, I can attempt to derive

different methods to teach the same material, hopefully finding a teaching style that matches the student's learning style.

- I think this movie really opened my eyes to the true hardships learning impaired students run into every day of their lives and allowed me to understand and comprehend their disabilities in a new perspective. I realized that students with disabilities aren't the people who need to be educated, it is those who are not learning impaired who need the education, and I believe that this video accomplished this.
- One method I thought that was interesting was to not use bribery because it does not help them find the right answer.
- I learned never to give harsh critiques but rather give words of encouragement to build the student's self-esteem. I would like to say I liked the exercises he used with his participants to demonstrate what it is like to be learning disabled.
- I also agree with Richard Lavoie that fairness should be based on focusing on what everyone needs, instead of being based on trying to treat everyone in an identical manner. Kids with learning disabilities should be given more attention by their teachers because they are the ones who have the most difficult time adjusting to and trying to understand what the teacher is saying. Overall, I think this is a good video and should be a must-see for anyone going into education (especially special education).