

Solving School Problems

Tutoring might be the answer to ongoing academic struggles

If your child struggles to make decent grades, he may need some one-on-one learning support outside of school. But with work, the house and the rest of the family to care for, you're spread too thin to give it to him. What's the solution? It may be time to look for a tutor.

To decide whether getting a tutor is the answer to your child's academic problems, ask yourself:

- Is homework time a nightly battle?
- Are my child's grades slipping more by the day?
- Is the entire family feeling the stress of his school troubles?

If the answer to these questions is yes, then hiring a pro may be worth a try--at least in the short-term.

To help your middle schooler get the most from tutoring sessions:

- Stand back. If the sessions take place in your home, don't try to "pitch in." Give the tutor space to do his job.
- Provide a distraction-free setting if the sessions take place in your home. Be sure there is a quiet, well-lit place to work.
- Set reachable goals. Don't expect your child to bring home straight A's right after he begins tutoring sessions. Instead, set smaller goals such as raising his math grade a few percentage points per month. Meeting these goals may be your best indicator as to whether the tutoring is working.

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