

CAN THEY COMPARE TO KNOWLEDGEQUEST?

Keep this checklist with you to assess the quality of other centers

Pre-enrollment:	KQ	Center 1	Center 2	Center 3
Free consultation with certified Director of Education	√			
Free center tour.	√			
Free trial session for the student	√			
Complete skills evaluation to determine students strengths and weaknesses	√			
Free registration				
Individualized program for each child's specific needs	√			
Competitive prices and prepayment tuition discounts	√			
Program support:	√			
Parent conferences every 15 hours of instruction				
Conferences with child's classroom teacher	√			
Daily monitoring of student's progress	√			
Learning environment:	√			
Flexible schedule				
Maximum 3:1 student teacher ratio (special programs 2:1 ratio)	√			
Credentialed teachers	√			
Wide array of instructional materials	√			
Teaching methods that support student's natural learning style	√			
Motivational program to build student's self esteem and encourage growth	√			
Extras:				
Progress test every 48 hours of instruction	√			
Free educational workshops for parents and students	√			
Free educational resources for parents	√			
ADD/ADHD specialists	√			
IEP advocacy	√			
Commitment to your child's needs	√			

What to Look for in a Learning Center

1. What can a learning center offer that most private tutors can't give your child?

In a tutoring situation, assistance is usually specific to one academic area and focused on one particular textbook. A good learning center is not simply a tutoring service; rather, it offers a great deal more. The most effective process begins with a skills evaluation to determine a student's strengths and weaknesses. Then the center's education director designs an individualized program to address those needs, and monitors it daily. The center's teachers should be credentialed and experienced. This, in conjunction with a wide array of educational materials equals something most tutors can't offer.

2. Is a 3:1 ratio better for my child than 1:1?

Years of experience have shown that a 3:1 ratio is an optimum ratio for most students in the learning environment. The dependency often created in a 1:1 situation does not prepare the student for the reality of academic expectations. In contrast, a 3:1 ratio allows each child to get as much 1:1 attention as needed, but also encourages independence, so the child can transfer new skills learned to the classroom setting.

3. Are parents and teachers actively involved in the process?

The learning center staff should meet with parents regularly to discuss the child's progress. In addition, working closely with a classroom teacher will provide insight into a child's learning process. With permission, the center staff can share a child's test results and solicit their teacher's input. This communication creates a triangle between school, home and the learning center. In this way, everyone can help the child reach his/her full potential.

4. What results should you expect?

Everyone learns differently, so there is no way to "guarantee" results. Guarantees are for refrigerators, not children. It's important to look at a center's commitment to each child. By monitoring achievement through regular progress testing, some tutorial services see an average growth of two grade levels in reading, math, and writing after six months of instruction. Magic? Not really. Progress is possible when skill-specific programs are taught in a variety of methods by experienced staff.

5. Does the center have experience with working with children with ADD/ ADHD or other learning disabilities?

Labels can be a touchy area for parents and students. The fact is, learning disabilities are real, and their effect on the learning process shouldn't be ignored. The best approach is not to label, but to determine how to address the needs of each child. Children with learning difficulties need a program that uses multi-sensory approaches, emphasizes strong reinforcement, provides individual attention and nurtures the development of self confidence.

6. Are there sufficient resources and support services available?

An educational service should be concerned with all aspects of a child's education. A center empowers parents to influence the learning process when it provides educational resources, workshops, and seminars to the community. Effective centers keep in touch with the latest changes in curriculum development, standards, and exam requirements. If needed, a strong advocate for IEP meetings should be provided FREE of charge.

7. What is the value of supplemental education?

The cost of supplemental education may seem high, but not getting help might be more costly in the long run. While there are "bargain" prices to be found, keep in mind that expense is relative to VALUE. Paying a higher price doesn't guarantee the best instruction, but getting a "bargain" almost certainly indicates a sacrifice of quality. Such a trade-off may slow the child's growth, requiring the child to stay in tutoring for a longer period of time. Parents, therefore, view supplementary education as an investment in their child's future. That investment could last a lifetime.