

What to Look for in a Learning Center

We know that KnowledgeQuest is not your only choice for local learning centers. However, we are confident that once you compare them, you will find that KnowledgeQuest provides an exceptional learning environment for your child at the best value.

1. What can a learning center provide that most private tutors cannot do for 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 must offer a great deal more.* The most effective learning process normally begins with a skills evaluation to determine a student's strengths and weaknesses. Subsequently, the center's educational director should design an individualized program to address the student's needs. The learning progress ought to be monitored regularly. Ideally, the center's teachers are experienced and credentialed. This, in conjunction with a wide array of educational materials, can establish learning conditions that most tutors cannot offer.

2. 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 the student's learning patterns. With parental permission, the learning center staff can share their test results and solicit the school teacher's input. This process would create a triangular collaboration between school, home, and the learning center. *Involving everyone will help students reach their full academic potential.*

3. What results can you expect?

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

4. Does the learning center have experience in working with children who have learning disabilities?

Labels can be a sensitive topic for parents and students. However, learning disabilities are real, and their effect on the learning process should not be ignored. *The best approach is not merely to label, but to determine how to address the needs of each child.* Children with learning differences need a program that uses multi-sensory approaches, emphasizes strong reinforcement, provides individual attention, and nurtures the development of self-confidence.

5. Are there sufficient resources and support services available?

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

6. 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 does not automatically guarantee the best instruction, but getting a "bargain" almost certainly indicates a sacrifice in quality. Such a trade-off may slow the child's growth and require tutoring for a longer period of time. Parents should view supplementary education as an *investment in their child's future*. That investment will last a lifetime.

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