

The powerful impact of volunteer tutoring at CPS schools

Tutoring Chicago LIT which stands for literacy intensive tutoring program is a profound experience that focuses primarily on reading and writing. Furthermore, there are two main type of programs that make it's entirely and it's composed of the LIT decoding and fluency programs. With the LIT decoding geared towards lower elementary grades and focusing on word accuracy and reading rate. The LIT comprehension which I myself had the great privilege to be part of is geared towards higher elementary school grades and focuses on comprehension or understanding in what student have read. After completing this 7-month school year program I have come to learn many useful tutoring techniques; next to that, I have come to realize that tutoring is a very powerful tool to academic success for students performing good or bad in school.

The beginning phase when starting something new is always filled with excitement and joy. We are optimistic about what the future holds and look forward to it in every way. The same can be said when I started this volunteer tutoring role with Tutoring Chicago as an encouragement of service to the community by Tepeyac's advisor Joshua-Smyer De Leon. I was both nervous and excited in seeing myself perform in a role I was not accustom to. Soon enough I realized I was about to go in an epic adventurous roll coaster. The day I was introduced to my assigned student something in him reflected back on me. I could tell we were both of Hispanic heritage, I had a really low haircut when I was in grade school, was skinny, but nevertheless knew I was really smart in accordance to my teachers' feedback to my parents in those occasion when they would stop by school. I could see the intelligence in my student not long after we started the first lesson, and soon I realized that with excitement and optimistic to do well we both thrived in our respective roles as student and tutor very unexpectedly I will admit. The first day he completed all of his lesson plans 15 minutes prior to the end time and needed very minimal guidance in pronouncing words or spelling them out. The emotions he and I shared was the receipt to our first successful lesson.

Furthermore, it's a very known fact that tutoring can help a student increase their grades in school. As their confidence level raises so do their grades in parallel fashion. The knowledge they gain in one on one sessions could be the missing piece of the puzzle to a whole new understanding of the topic they are struggling on. Personally, when I myself was a student and had tutoring lessons, there was always an "OHH" moment which meant something had finally clicked. Whether it was a math law or a word I didn't know, tutoring made learning more efficient and fun in ways I couldn't have otherwise obtained. Moments like these are what gives me joy and satisfaction. Knowing I am providing that same sense of pleasure, enjoyment, and hope to a much younger and new generation of mathematicians, engineers, and scientists. That is what keeps me going and motivates me to continue my efforts in helping others in any way I can.

I enjoyed the whole process from start to finish when becoming a Tutoring Chicago tutor for the first time. It was very fast and straightforward, and the objectives were very cleared beginning from orientation day. After all, they have been empowering economically

disadvantaged children through education for over fifty years - thus probably have had time to improve a lot of things since then. Tutoring Chicago is a place that is well prepared for both their students and volunteering tutors. From regular email newsletter, classroom meetings, to feedback which tutors can provide to parents. Its world-class program infrastructure is made for success. They aim to position the volunteering tutor in his or her strongest suit of skills and preferences in which they will be tutoring in. Hence, students are matched with tutors who are very passionate and skilled in what they find hard to understand. In addition, every aspect of my experience was pleasant. Their program framework is so well made that I knew exactly where I should be and never found myself lost. From the arrival time at 5:45pm to checking in and picking up my name tag and grabbing the student's folder which contains the lesson plan to wrapping up and putting everything back - everything is kept well in scheduled. I greatly believe that this program has created a recipe for success for students and I hope that other fellow students like me or even regular Chicagoans volunteer their someday.