

## Tuition Centre Checklist: 14 Questions to Ask Prospective Tutors

Better Tuition has assembled a list of questions to ask when visiting tuition centres and, to help you compare, we have supplied our own answers. Please don't be shy about asking these questions: tuition can make a huge difference to a child but it's important to choose carefully.

### Finance

It's important to know how much tuition will cost you because there may be hidden costs; if you are required to pay for lessons during school holiday time this can ramp up the overall cost considerably.

	Question	Other tuition centre	Better Tuition Centre
1.	What is the hourly cost of tuition and how long is each lesson? How much does one year of lessons cost? What is the monthly cost of this?		£21.60 per hour  75 mins per session. Total cost for one session: £27.00.  If you attend one year of lessons during term time only, this would come to £1080.  Over twelve months, this would be £90.00 per month.  Do not allow other tuition centres to fudge this: they may not have the answers to hand, but a good tutor will have the skills to work it out.
2.	Is there a registration fee?		No: we do not charge you to register with us and we offer a free assessment or free first lesson.  Other than the cost of your groceries, Sainsbury's doesn't charge you money to be their customer, so why should a tuition centre do this?
3.	Is there a deposit to pay?		Yes: £27 secures your place and you use this to pay for your final lesson with us.
4.	Is payment required in school holiday time?		No: we do run a summer school but this is optional and extra.
5.	Can I pay with tax credits or with childcare vouchers?		Yes. We are Ofsted registered. Our Ofsted registration number is <b>EY475484</b> .
6.	Will I be tied in to a contract?		No. We ask for one week's notice. If you leave without giving any notice we keep your £27 deposit.

## **Who will be tutoring my child?**

It's important to know who your child's tutor is and whether they are well qualified. It is true that there are some very good private tutors who do not have a teaching qualification (you can find these by word of mouth recommendation), but it is equally true that a teaching qualification gives you the reassurance you need that your child's tutor is able to make the most of their potential. Some tuition centres use sixth-formers, students or people without any qualifications.

	<b>Question</b>	<b>Other tuition centre</b>	<b>Better Tuition Centre</b>
7.	Are all your tutors qualified teachers?		Yes.
8.	What is the minimum qualification you require from your teachers?		A degree and Qualified Teacher Status.
9.	Will my child have the same tutor each week?		Yes. Very occasionally your child's tutor may be absent due to illness (we are all human!) but this is rare.
10.	Who plans my child's lessons and how do they go about planning?		Your child's tutor will plan and prepare their individual lesson plan for them each week. This will take into account previous weeks' lessons and your child's overall learning goals.

## How will my child be taught?

How do we actually go about teaching? Lessons should be organised so that they make maximum impact on students' progress. Your child is an individual with unique strengths and weaknesses and our lessons focus on their needs and aspirations.

	<b>Question</b>	<b>Other tuition centre</b>	<b>Better Tuition Centre</b>
11.	How are lessons organised?		Our lessons are engaging, enjoyable and enduring. Your child will find their lesson interesting and will become fully absorbed in their studies. We introduce, practise and revise so that the lesson stays with your child and they can apply their knowledge in the classroom or in exams.
12.	What happens in a lesson?		Children work independently or with their tutor, giving them the right mix of teacher input and independent study. We aim to complete 5-7 short activities each session. The work is very intensive and we have a brief break midway, in order that our learners can be fully focused throughout. Parents are often amazed at how much progress is made in just one lesson.
13.	How will I receive feedback about my child's progress?		Each week your child's tutor will show you your child's work and give you a recap of the lesson. You are very welcome to ring Paul or Christine, the centre owners on 0161 748 3912. This number diverts to our mobile when we are not there and you are welcome to contact us any time. We carry out a formal assessment each term. Your child's tutor prepares and marks their assessment and writes a report. No part of this process is automated.
14.	Will my child be given homework?		Yes. The only exception to this is if the parents/ carers request no homework be given. We do understand, however, that life can be very busy: your child will never be told off for not completing homework.
15.	Will my child follow a set course?		No. We will target the skills your child requires in order to achieve their goals. Their lessons will be tailored to them as individuals. We do not believe that a 'one size fits all' approach achieves the best progress.
16.	Will my child complete mainly pen and paper-based activities?		Yes. This is really important because a) At the time of writing, any exams your child may sit will be on paper and b) Research demonstrates that handwriting on worksheets or in books engages the brain far more effectively and enables students to remember more effectively. We use computers very sparingly as reinforcement.