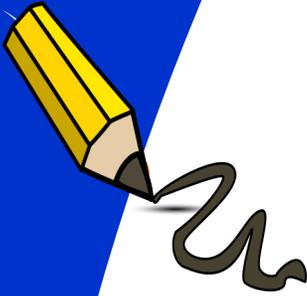




August 2020

# Tutor Tips

A monthly publication of the Moore County  
Literacy Council



Dear Tutors, Volunteers, and  
lovers of literacy,

Are you feeling the **HEAT**? Some of my best memories include summer visits to my Grandparent's house in Southport, NC, especially when an afternoon thunderstorm popped up- the sound of the rain battering against their tin roof was as much a novel to me as it was mysterious! That's why "thunderstorms" is the writing prompt for August, and I so look forward to reading how our students reflect upon them! Intentional writing is indeed part of reading, so please read below.

We continue to prepare for fall, although the dates are not officially on the calendar: we are aiming to re-open to tutor and student pairs sometime around Labor Day. There will be a new tutor volunteer training in September, and of course we are discussing how we can safely celebrate our students and **YOU**, our tutors, later this fall.

I know some of you have been worried about your students - we've lost contact with some. But I also know that you have gone the extra mile to text a "how are you?" every week or so, or to ensure lessons are happening, and provide feedback. **Keep up the good work!** We don't want our students to get too far out of the habit of progressing towards their goals (check out page 3 for two creative tutoring ideas)!

I love your questions and suggestions - keep them coming! Call me at 910.692.5954 or send me an email! After all, this newsletter is for **YOU**! And again, **THANK YOU** for all you do!

Until next month, Susan

## Writing prompt for August.....

### Thunderstorms

*Please forward your student's **July** paragraph to Susan so it can be printed in the student publication, "**Reflections**". There's actually a method to this madness! When someone reads about the same information but from different perspectives- or considers different experiences and outcomes, it actually enhances critical thinking skills. Your student is not only writing, then reading, but also "growing" an essential component of literacy!*





Ask Susan...

How do I budget my time so we cover everything we need in a single tutoring session?

FIRST and foremost, always use the **15-minute** rule: the learning brain is wired to tire (get bored) if it does the same thing for more than 10-15 minutes. With that in mind, you need to keep things moving every ten minutes or so. This does NOT mean get out new information, it simply means that you use the information in a **different way** for a few minutes.

For example, you are reading a story and it has been a bit of a struggle. After 10 or 12 minutes, stop active reading. Have your student go back and circle (or review) words s/he did not know at the beginning of the reading. Ask your learner to describe to you what is going on to measure their comprehension and interest, or ask them to stop and describe to you a similar experience they have had - you might have to ask a few questions, but that's okay! After taking a few minutes to process the information in a different way (you are actually re-stimulating the brain), go back and pick up where you left off!

As for breaking up your time into meaningful segments, most Teacher Manuals have already provided a lesson plan, but if not- here is a sample session:

5-7 mins: Start each session with a quick **catch-up** and a **review** of last week's lesson

8-10 mins: Work on the monthly writing prompt, vocabulary, phonics, puzzles, etc. You can also use this to break up a long lesson.

60-70 mins: Weekly Lesson from book; remember to break it up into smaller segments if the book does not do this for you!

5 mins: Recap, Review & Rate the lesson!

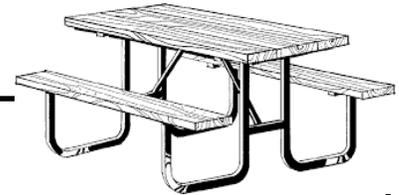
**Remember: YOU** know your student better than anyone! **YOU** know what they need,

**FYI...** One of the ways we measure success is by comparing the current year's end-of-year assessment with the previous year's. However, due to mandatory closures, end-of-year tests were not administered in May for Fiscal year 2019-2020. I'm not sure how this will impact us in the long-term, if at all, just keep it in mind!

**Sorry** EVENT  
**CANCELLED**



*FYI... When you return to tutoring, the monthly writing prompt and the monthly homophones will be available in the tutor rooms!*



### “The Beauty of Outdoor Meeting Spaces”

We are blessed to live in a beautiful area– there are lakes, parks, lots of leafy trees, covered pic-nic shelters and grassy, outdoor areas. Why not take the tutoring outdoors? Until we re-open our tutor rooms, we’re having to think of creative ways to keep our students moving forward. Mornings, late day & early evenings are almost tolerable in a shady or covered area this time of year. If you and your student have missed valuable time together, meet first thing in the morning at a mutually convenient public outdoor space! Fear the heat? Try 30 minutes and see how you do! **It just might work!** Here’s just a few places to get you started:

- Downtown Park, Southern Pines– benches, tables in children’s play area (swings closed)
- Reservoir Park– covered area with pic-nic tables
- Aberdeen Lake Park- covered area with pic-nic tables
- Weymouth Woods Nature Preserve– a couple of pic-nic tables behind main building
- Rassie Wicker Park, Pinehurst– covered area with pic-nic tables
- Ray’s Mill Pond Park- covered area with pic-nic tables
- Pool Park, Southern Pines- covered area with pic-nic tables



**Problem:** You want to try tutoring on-line with Zoom or Facetime, but your student doesn't have a computer, or maybe they lack internet...

**Solution:** The Read Moore Center!

We have six beautiful, modern computers—fully equipped with headphones- in our computer lab that can be used by your student to “attend” virtual tutoring sessions! All you need to do is call us to reserve a time slot! We can help them access Zoom and get them started with you! For more information, or if YOU need help with Zoom, just call us at 910.692.5954!



**Stay tuned for our re-opening date! We are looking so forward to re-opening the Read Moore Center to tutors and students, hopefully some time this fall!**

***We've missed seeing you!***