



**Shirley A.R. Johnson, Ph.D.**  
**Director**

Dr. Johnson's advanced degrees in learning and educational psychology (M.S., Ph.D.) are from Indiana University. Her extensive professional experiences include: eight years of teaching and tutoring students K-12 in public and private schools; eight years as an instructor of learning and development classes at the University of Louisville; five years as a university consultant on first-year teacher intern committees; editorial board member of the Journal of the Society for Accelerative Learning and Teaching; and, program consultant for the Indiana State Department of Public Instruction. These experiences have been enhanced by a sincere desire to understand how the learner can maximize his or her learning potential.

**Tutoring available for:**

- Reading:  
Phonics, Comprehension, Literature
- Language Arts:  
Spelling, Grammar, Composition
- Math:  
Basic Math, Algebra I, Algebra 2;  
Geometry, Calculus, Trigonometry
- Sciences:  
Basic Science, Biology, Chemistry,
- Social Sciences:  
Social Studies, Psychology, Sociology
- Computer Skills
- Foreign Languages
- Study Skills:  
Basic Study Skills, Testing Strategies  
PSAT, SAT, & ACT Preparation

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**Scheduling and Evaluation:**

To schedule services for tutoring or evaluation, please call or send an e-mail. Generally, results of previous standardized tests are helpful in understanding strengths and weaknesses. If adequate progress is not being made with a tutor, we may suggest further instructional evaluation of perceptual and processing skills.

Scheduled sessions must be cancelled four hours in advance of the scheduled tutoring session unless there is an emergency.

**Payment:**

Rates for services are:

Tutoring session - \$30.00/ ¾ hr.

Tutoring session - \$35.00/hr.

Tutoring session in student's home - \$40.00/hr.

Instructional evaluation – Rates will vary

Make payments weekly. Checks are payable to:

**Academic Tutoring Services or ATS.**



*“Discovering pathways to  
understanding”*

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*Educational Psychologist*

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*Mission: To encourage, empower, and  
improve personal learning strategies so  
that each student will become an  
independent and successful learner.*

## Dear Fellow Parent,

Few of life's experiences are more challenging than parenting. It can be especially frustrating when our children are not doing well in school. If you are like me, when your children are not doing well, you will want to know why. I can help you and your children to answer this question and to improve their academic performance. Your child's continued progress in school is very important. Sometimes in the educational process, a student finds it difficult to understand certain concepts or skills. This hampers his or her ability to progress to higher levels of the subject material.

Here are some indicators that may suggest your child could benefit from a tutor:

- Does your child have continuing trouble with a specific subject?
- Does your child frequently ask for help with homework because the teacher's explanation was not understood?
- Did your child end the last school year with a very low grade in one or more subjects?
- Does your child seem overly anxious about schoolwork---or even going to school?
- Did your child score a lot lower in one subject area compared with others on a standardized achievement test?

Academic Tutoring Services is committed to working individually with students in specific areas. Collaboration with teachers and parents contribute to a greater understanding of the student's difficulty. This, in turn, leads to more effective instruction. Identifying both the student's strengths and weaknesses, individualizing instruction with practical application, and providing appropriate feedback to guide the learner in acquiring new

information, concepts, or skills is essential. Progress reports will be provided monthly.

This is really a quest to discover your student's 'pathways to understanding.' Sight and sound are the two primary modes of learning since humans have developed an intricate system of symbols comprising a written and oral language. Even math is a language of symbols. Most people have one dominant mode through which much of the world is perceived and interpreted. Visual learners process information primarily through written language, graphics, and images. Auditory learners process information primarily by speaking and listening. The tactile system usually serves as a secondary system to enhance one of the above learning modes in most educational settings.

What happens if there is a glitch in the primary mode of perception and processing? That typically means that the individual will have some learning problems unless strategies are developed to compensate for that deficit. The easiest way to compensate is by tapping into another functioning mode. For example, a poor visual short-term memory may be bolstered by the auditory short-term memory using mental self-talk or recitation aloud.

Tutoring is ideally designed to be a short-term ancillary support for learning in the classroom. Successful tutoring empowers a student to work independently as a fully-contributing member of the class.

ATS has qualified tutors who are looking forward to working with you and your child.

Sincerely,



Shirley A.R. Johnson, Ph.D.

## Interesting Tips for Parents\*:

- Encourage thoughtful questions without immediate critical evaluation.
- Cultivate your child's early identity as a 'good' student who *may* have minor difficulties from time to time.
- Rather than solving your child's problems and undermining their self-confidence, probe him/her to discover how to do it.
- Express praise and appreciation since it often leads to inspiration and competency.
- Intervene quickly before your child becomes overwhelmed with a class by asking the teacher, "*What can we do to help?*"
- Admire persistence and the process of learning, not just the bottom line--the grade.
- Speak to the behavior ("It's important to...") rather than personally criticize the child ("You are so...").
- Model and encourage organization and time management.
- If reinforcement is needed, permit socializing and TV only after homework has been completed.
- Let your child experience the natural consequences of a misbehavior, loss of an item, or carelessness by not rescuing.

\*from *Lives of Promise* by Karen D. Arnold, Ph.D., Jossey-Bass Publishers, 1998.