
Visit With the Utays

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School Psychology and Education Specialists



Dr. Joe Utay, a graduate of Pitt, has been a counselor, psychologist, family therapist, author, national speaker, teacher, clinic director and father. He earned tenure as a professor training school counselors, marriage and family therapists, and school psychologists; and is now Director of Counseling and Evaluation Services for Total Learning Centers.

Dr. Carol Utay, also a graduate of Pitt, has experience as a Principal, teacher, computer trainer, national speaker, adjunct professor, Orton Gillingham therapist, author, and mother. With a doctorate in education, she has trained thousands of teachers and parents to help children achieve success and feel good about themselves. She is Executive Director of Total Learning Centers. Joe and Carol live and work in Wexford with their daughter Andrea.

Supplies and Skills:

How parents can give their children these resources now

“Yeah! There’s still more summer without homework! Oh no... homework. I go back and forth between celebrating our remaining peace and dread knowing what stress homework causes my family. Any suggestions?”

Some days, it’s a toss up who is more excited about summer relief from homework hassles—children or their parents. Homework is again looming on the horizon, but that doesn’t have to be an omen for a repeat of last year’s family turmoil around this perennial topic. This is the time to put supports in place so you and your family can look forward to, or at least not dread, this fall.

This doesn’t have to be a big ordeal. It’s ignoring the need to prepare that leads to the must-get-ready-quick panic arriving in the fall. “Simply” buying supplies and getting your child’s study area ready can prevent a lot of frustration. Plan a fun school supply shopping treasure hunting adventure, just you and your child. First sit down and make a list of needed supplies for school and then make a list of items your child should have for their study area at home. Great school supply sales start around mid-August if not before. See below for an example list. Check with your child’s school for any special supplies it requires. If you need a starter list call TLC for the free guide: *Winning the Homework Battle*.

The second powerful way to prepare now for fall success is to find out if your child has necessary school skills. Disappointing report card grades are only one reason to develop skills. Another obvious sign that your child needs help this summer is national yearly standardized test scores below the 50th percentile. The commonwealth of Pennsylvania offers any student below the 50th

percentile in reading or math a free \$500 tutoring grant (called Classroom Plus) offered even if report card grades are all A’s. TLC can guide you through the application process for this free grant tutoring program.

Many parents have described to us having a gut feeling that their child was or will be having more trouble with reading, writing, math, or study skills than they should. If that’s you, get on the waiting list for standardized testing by the public school’s school psychologist. Or, for quicker answers, use a private school psychologist at a learning center.

Getting ready now for inevitable fall homework through obtaining needed supplies and skills, is one way to help prepare today for success tomorrow. For more ways to successfully manage homework hassles, call Total Learning Centers for a copy of the free guide, *Winning the Homework Battle*.

Read more ideas for children at www.TotalLearningCenter.com or call (724) 940-1090 for a free copy of the TLC report: *How to Choose a Tutor or Learning Center*.

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