

Visit With the Utays

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School Psychology and Education Specialists

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But What is the CAUSE of the Reading Problem?

"My child had a reading problem so I took him to a tutor. We saw some minor improvement but that was short lived. He's a good kid and wants to do well. What are we missing?"

Six months ago, we met a wonderful little boy we'll call Carl. Carl's mother was quite frustrated with the limited help she received at a tutoring center that "just tutored him to get him through the 9-week period, but didn't really solve his learning problems." We explained that really those tutors did Carl a favor. They did help "get him through" and since it was clearly insufficient, we also now know that **evidently he needs more meaningful in-depth focused help.**

To his teachers, previous tutors, and parents, on the surface Carl looked like he just had "problems reading." We conducted our usual state-of-the-art evaluation to find out what underlying problem was *causing* the reading problem. Beside the basic question of whether there was a problem with phonics or reading comprehension, we needed to know if it was an "input problem" such as difficulties with one of the five types of paying attention. Was it a mental processing (thinking through) problem? Maybe thinking was fine but not his *speed* of processing. Was it a short-term, working or long-term memory problem? Was it an "output problem" so that he actually knew more (and was more creative) than he was able to indicate through oral or written language? **Clearly, first uncovering the underlying issue was vital before making a realistic plan to solve the problem.**

We found Carl's problem was not just "problems reading" but very weak visual processing as well as processing *speed*. Armed with that data, TLC experts used a research-based powerful twelve-week program that led to improved reading and better and faster processing of other visual information.

Your son's underlying issues may be different than those of Carl, and that's the point: **he needs an individualized approach to determine exactly why HE has trouble reading, then a solution focused not just on reading per se, but the problems underlying his reading.** Now you have more questions to ask the next expert you take your son to which should lead to answers to better help him prepare today for success tomorrow.

For more information about Total Learning Center's kid-friendly evaluation process, or to discuss your child's specific needs, contact TLCs at 724.940.1090 or info@totallearningcenters.com or visit us at TotalLearningCenters.com or one of our 4 locations in Wexford, Fox Chapel, Murrysville, and South Hills.

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