

Visit With The Utays

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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, 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.

Care for a \$500 Gift to be Used for Tutoring?

I know educational tutoring would be very helpful, but we're having a hard time working it into our family budget. What do you suggest?

Good question! We have three suggestions. Two are available all the time and the third may only be available for a limited time. The two perennial options are first, take advantage of the free testing and (if your child qualifies) special help offered in public schools, and second, Total Learning Centers offers reasonably priced very effective tutoring for reading, writing, math, and other areas of need. We also really want you to consider a third option- a \$500 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Education offered regardless of income. Interested in this \$500 gift? Read on.

Named Classroom Plus Grants, the PA Department of Education is offering \$500 to every student scoring below the average range (50th percentile) in reading or math. The \$500 will be given to parents (including step-parents and foster parents) to pay for after-school help. Applications are due back to the Department of Education as soon as possible! Even if you are not positive your child will qualify, you should apply.

Here are some key guidelines:

- Kindergarten through 9th graders scoring below the 50th percentile on either the achievement tests or the state PSSA tests are eligible.
- Instruction must be individual or in a small group.
- Reading OR math is the focus area.
- Students must be enrolled in public, private, or home school.
- Students will receive help at times other than regular school hours.

- Grant money may only be used for instruction, not materials or assessment.
- You may use test results from last year's testing only until the scores from the current year are available. As soon as they are available, you must then use those scores.
- Verification is needed by someone at the school.
- Return the completed application to the Department of Education for processing, approval, and finally the issuance of a grant certificate take to an approved tutoring location.
- Remember to make a copy of anything you send.
- Begin tutoring services at a state-approved location within 60 days of receiving the grant. Call Total Learning Centers (724-940-1090) for their approved program.

We applaud parents like you who are always on the lookout for opportunities to help your children. If you need help deciding if yours is eligible, education experts at Total Learning Centers are available to help you free of charge. Call or bring in your child's most recent test scores. We will even help you fill out the application. We also applaud the Pennsylvania Department of Education for doing their part to help our children prepare today for success tomorrow.

Please ask! For more information and great websites to help with education challenges, visit the Total Learning Center website: www.TotalLearningCenter.com or call (724) 940-1090 for a free copy of a TLC CD full of useful information for parents.

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