

Visit With the Utays

January 2008

School Psychology and Education Specialists



Dr. **Joe Utay**, Director of Counseling and Evaluation Services for Total Learning Centers and former professor for Indiana University of Pennsylvania's Department of Counseling, is a graduate of University of Pittsburgh, a school psychologist, marriage and family therapist, author, national speaker, and father. **Dr. Carol Utay** is Executive Director of Total Learning Centers. She is also a graduate of University of Pittsburgh, an expert in learning and special education. "Dr. Carol" has experience as a principal, Orton-Gillingham reading therapist, teacher, consultant, national speaker, professor, author, and mother. She is a national 2006 Athena Award winner for community service. They live and work in the North Hills with their daughter Andrea.

\$500 Grant Available for Expert Tutoring

TLC's Beyond-the-Classroom Grant Replaces State's Classroom-Plus Grant

"Our son desperately needs tutoring to strengthen reading. He also needs help with math and we've also heard great things about your program that improves attention. However, we can't afford everything right now. What do you suggest?"

When I (Dr. Joe) was a young boy, I wanted a cool slingshot I saw at a local department store. I asked my father, "Do we have that kind of money we need to buy things?" Confused, he asked what I meant so I explained, "Well, when I asked for something before you told me, 'No, we don't have THAT kind of money' so I'm wondering if we have that kind now." We applaud parents like you who are always on the lookout for opportunities to help your child even if you don't always have THAT kind of money available to provide everything that is needed all at once (few do). Fortunately, there is an option available that can help at least get your son started with tutoring, free.

Since the state is no longer offering its Classroom-Plus \$500 grant program, Total Learning Centers is independently offering its own similar program, called the Beyond-the-Classroom[®] Grant. The grant is for 2nd through 6th graders scoring below the 50th percentile in reading. Students are eligible yearly based on an application signed by the principal of their school showing scores below the 50th percentile in reading on the same routine standardized tests approved in previous years by the state-funded Classroom-Plus grant program. The program is open to students in all school districts.

When the state offered the free tutoring through its grant, every Classroom-Plus student at Total Learning Centers improved and 90 percent made significant improvement. The same program (actually services worth \$1,590) will be offered through the Beyond-the-Classroom grant. Pre and post testing, a parent conference, report and permission to share information with the school district will continue to be required. Please pass this information along to any parents or educators you know while space is still available. Together we can make a difference. Thank you for doing your part so your child can prepare for THAT kind of future you know he is capable of achieving.

For more information about Total Learning Center's Beyond-the-Classroom grant or to discuss in more depth your child's unique strengths and needs, call 724.940.1090 or visit their website at www.TotalLearningCenters.com.

(Wexford, Fox Chapel, and Murrysville areas).

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