

The SPARK approach to tutoring

AIM: To provide APPROPRAITE PERSONAL SUPPORT to young people struggling in mainstream school.

Many of the problems students have with learning/progressing are caused by poor understanding of some of the basic ideas and techniques. Sometimes too little time was spent on early learning – the alphabet, number tables, spellings, handwriting, etc. Often students' understanding is good in most of the early work, but sometimes students missed some early work through absence.

Whatever the reason, basic skills are essential to complement later learning. Our experience show that students who lack these techniques inevitably struggle, particularly during group work, as a result of the "gaps", the small things that they do not fully understand or have forgotten due to inadequate practice/revision, cause problems in later work, while the other students who have the basic skills are comfortable and will progress as expected.

To remedy this, we at the SPARK Learning centre go right back to the basics and go through all the simple ideas and techniques that pupils ought to know. Much of it they will be able to do already, but there will be little things that they are unsure about and need to get reassurance. Also, going back over the basics that they already understand is a memory-jogger which will help when tackling the more difficult techniques in higher level work.

Every session of tutoring at the centre starts with a short mental arithmetic test. The aim is to find weak and unknown "gaps" in techniques that students ought to know and fill them, hence boosting self-confidence as well as improving mental arithmetic expertise. After each level is completed, the pupil can move to the next level of test, which will include new skills/techniques.

SPARK LEARNING CENTRE
Education at the heart of our community.

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ACTION PACKED ACTIVITIES.