

Overcoming Challenges and Learning Lessons

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“And that’s why you need an apostrophe.” I said. I didn’t get a reply. “Stell?” I still didn’t get a reply. After I repeated her name three times she finally replied. It’s hard not knowing if a buddy is paying attention or not. They might be playing video games or watching youtube instead of actually learning. In the beginning of the sessions with my buddy, I caught her slacking and not paying attention. It was challenging because I wanted her to learn and listen. It was hard to get her to focus and not just answer the questions because I’m forcing her to do so. Sometimes, she wouldn’t even answer when I called her name to answer. When I asked her to repeat what I taught, she wouldn’t be able to, leaving me frustrated. This happened for the first session, so I was hoping she would change. However, in the next session, I could tell that she didn’t focus at all. I didn’t want her to not pay attention for the whole semester, so I decided to use strategies to help this weakness.

I never knew how hard it was to be a tutor until now. Actually experiencing my buddy not paying attention to what I was saying bothered me a lot. Because of this, I decided to make up strategies that can help my buddy focus more. I realized that it could be hard to focus for a full hour, especially since she was in second grade. After all, I wouldn’t be able to focus entirely as well. Having breaks in between the sessions definitely helped. My buddy was able to focus without my lectures seeming like random words in gibberish. Making the class more fun also helped my buddy focus more. Doing fun activities like making acrostic poems and puzzle worksheets helped my buddy enjoy the class more as well as help her understand the topic more. I could really tell that my buddy was having fun and really giving close attention. I got to bond with my buddy for the first time. Putting myself into my buddy’s shoes definitely helped me.

Experiencing this challenge surprisingly helped me learn a few lessons, the most important one being *Don’t Let Hardship Be Everything*. It was hard teaching someone who didn’t listen to me and didn’t pay attention. I thought that my buddy would also ignore me for the rest of the classes. However, making up strategies made me and my buddy make a closer relationship and helped my buddy pay attention while having fun at the same time. I really enjoyed teaching my buddy. Although I faced a few challenges, I got to overcome them and even learn a lesson out of it. I’m glad I got to tutor my buddy and look forward to teaching other buddies in the future. If I come across another similar challenge and hardship, I can always recall back to this experience and remind myself of the lesson I learned. I enjoyed being in this p2p program and it taught me many valuable lessons.