

# WHIZard Academy for Mathematics & English®

## Support for Students with Special Needs (K to Adult)

The WHIZard Academy for Mathematics & English® in Cary, NC, provides targeted, effective, and caring educational support for students with many special needs, including those with learning differences, poor confidence, developmental delays, dyslexia, and activity and attention issues (ADHD and ADD).

Our learning environment is designed and managed as a **quiet library to minimize distracting noise and movement**. Each student works in a spacious, private, sound-absorbing StudyStation. Our trained and certified tutors support each student one-on-one within that student's StudyStation. The student does not hear or see any other student, and no student hears him/her. So each student is able to **focus without distraction or embarrassment**. No student is permitted to have cell phones, iPods, food or drink while studying. Everyone speaks softly. Students with attention or activity issues find our library setting particularly supportive, and those lagging their peers are encouraged by the lack of teasing and competition.

Based on a **free assessment of developmental/academic level**, we develop for each student an **individual curriculum plan custom-crafted to meet the unique needs of that student**. Each student studies and progresses as fast or as slow as he/she is capable of mastering each topic. A student with a particular difficulty in one concept or sub-skill will receive **additional attention and support**, including **repetitive drilling** and **timed exercises**, as and when appropriate. We do not move past a topic until it has been mastered.

Our teaching method is ideal for dyslexic students, many of whom have problems with math, especially multiplication tables, fractions, decimals, percentages, ratio and proportion and statistics. For these students, it is important that **each concept and sub-skill be thoroughly mastered before moving on to another topic**.

We use a time-tested **multi-sensory teaching method**. Our curriculum is multi-sensor, employing matching audio, visual and tactile stimuli to foster learning and retention. When the multi-sensory approach is chosen for a student, the student wears headphone and hears word for word the same careful explanations and examples as he/she reads. The student then practices similar problems using **structured worksheets** (with calculator, when appropriate), thereby receiving tactile reinforcement. Studies from the National Institutes of Child Health and Human Development have shown that for children with learning difficulties, **a multi-sensory teaching method is the most effective approach or treatment**. This is especially true for a dyslexic student.

Students with special needs often experience setbacks and failures in their normal school setting. Such negative experiences damage self-confidence and motivation, which can lead to more setbacks and failures. At the WHIZard Academy, we **build student confidence by establishing and recognizing incremental success**. We begin with lessons within the current grasp of a new student, thereby encouraging short-term success and motivation. As the lessons increase in difficulty, we employ a variety of age-appropriate recognition techniques, from stickers to gift certificates, to promote self-esteem and engender success.

Please contact the Cary NC WHIZard Academy for Mathematics & English at **919-468-1721** to schedule a center tour to see and discuss how our special environment and educational approach might benefit your student with special needs.