TutorMe

White Paper

Building Effective Tutoring Practices through TutorMe's Logic Model and RAISE Approach

Introduction

Through TutorMe, students have access to personalized support from qualified tutors, whenever and wherever they need it. The power of our platform is centered on human connection, where every student receives the one-on-one support of a tutor dedicated to encouraging and engaging a student on their individual learning journey.

We understand the strength of our platform is directly tied to our understanding and application of the learning science behind what makes for an excellent tutoring session.

Using research from a robust literature review process, the GoGuardian Education Team developed the TutorMe logic model. This logic model is a conceptual framework demonstrating how tutoring on the TutorMe platform can lead to positive outcomes for learning readiness, academic achievement, and teacher satisfaction. But we didn't stop there — understanding is only the first step. Using evidence-based learning strategies as a guiding light, our internal experts translated the TutorMe logic model into a five-step tutoring methodology, creating the TutorMe RAISE Approach. Anchored in instructional best practices, the TutorMe RAISE Approach offers tutors a simple, memorable formula to lead an effective tutoring session.

TutorMe's logic model and RAISE Approach are designed to infuse evidence-based practices into every interaction between tutors and students on our platform. Through the application of learning science, we are committed to providing a personalized learning experience for every student using the power of human connection in education advancement.

Table of Contents

TutorMe | Logic Model

Inputs

What does an ideal tutoring session do to support and supplement student learning?

Provide Differentiated Instructional Supports for All Students

A tutor's role is to operate alongside a school's structure of support to supplement a student's classroom learning by filling in gaps of knowledge or challenging students to push further.

Deliver High-Quality Instructional Support

In a one-to-one setting, tutors have the opportunity to deliver engaging and rigorous instructional support that puts students at the center of the learning experience.

Give Students Tools to Learn Beyond the Session

One of the most powerful ways tutors can impact students is in building their capacity, desire, and ability to learn. Whether a student is struggling in Algebra or ELA, or not feeling challenged enough by their current class schedule, helping them evaluate their own learning and reflect on their knowledge can set students up for future success – success that reaches well beyond their tutoring sessions.

Activities

How does TutorMe deliver on providing impactful tutoring sessions for all students?

On-Demand Support for Students and Teachers

- TutorMe can support schools and districts as a tool in their intervention structure.
- Teachers have the ability to use TutorMe to supplement in-class learning when students need more direct support.
- Through leveraging tools like TutorMe's Writing Lab, teachers can reallocate time originally spent on reviewing and correcting first-draft writing assignments towards higher-impact activities, like deeper content exploration in the classroom.
- Through their school's partnership with TutorMe, students can access a tutor anytime, from anywhere, and for any academic need – whether they need homework assistance, an extra challenge, or a personalized support plan.

Scaffolded Sessions and Learning Goals

- TutorMe sessions provide differentiated 1:1 support focused on assessing a student's prior knowledge in order to build towards an accurate student model and keep students in their zone of proximal development.
- With TutorMe's collaborative digital tools, tutors can utilize evidence-based learning strategies, such as a Modeling-Scaffolding-Fading approach.

Growth-Mindset-Oriented Experiences

- TutorMe tutors deliver personalized, process-oriented feedback and process praise to continuously encourage student persistence.
- Within a TutorMe session, tutors facilitate the creation of a clear, goal-oriented session plan to aid students in accomplishing their learning goals.

Student-Centered Session Designs

- TutorMe tutors keep students as the drivers of a learning experience by prompting students to demonstrate their understanding and regularly use self-explanation.
- TutorMe sessions emphasize metacognitive strategies by encouraging students to evaluate their own reasoning and reflect on the learning process,
- Tutor guidance and feedback delivered through TutorMe focuses on student autonomy. It is never prescriptive or controlling.

Emphasis on Higher-Order Thinking Skills

- TutorMe sessions regularly prompt higher-order thinking through questioning techniques and application tasks.
- TutorMe reinforces critical thinking, problem solving, and decision-making techniques by engaging students in active discussion throughout the session.

Outcomes

What does the research tell us about the potential benefits of TutorMe when it is used to support effective instructional practices?

Teacher Satisfaction and Retention

- Teacher self-reports indicate that use of out-of-school-time (OST) resources, such as access to tutoring services, can result in increased student work completion, satisfaction, and greater reports of readiness to learn in the classroom.[1]
- Research of variables impacting teacher outcomes found self-report measures of workload to be predictive of job satisfaction ratings and teacher retention rates.[2,3]

Equitable Learning

- A large meta-analysis of academic interventions with elementary and middle school students from a low SES background found that access to tutoring resources and feedback had a statistically significant impact on achievement.[4]
- A systematic review of OST academic programs found that focused academic supports, such as structured intensive tutoring, can improve academic outcomes for at-risk students, most of whom are from low-income and racial/ethnic minority families.[5]

Academic Achievement and Engagement

- Administering tasks at appropriate levels of cognitive difficulty for students has been shown to have positive effects on the maintenance of engagement and motivation in learning.[6]
- Higher rates of timely and effective feedback have been linked with increased engagement and motivation, and has been cited as one of the most effective practices for improving learning and achievement.[7]
- Studies suggest that learning experiences that focus on higher-order thinking skills see gains in the academic achievement of low and high-performing students.[6]
- Interactive lesson experiences — like modeling — have been shown to make learning more accessible, increasing academic engagement and achievement outcomes.[7]
- Student-centered lessons that include active learning elements, such as discussion, interaction, and student response technology, have been linked to improved engagament in learning and higher classroom retention rates.[9,10]
- Tutoring sessions marked with reflection prompts have been shown to aid deep learners, while sessions with scaffolding have been shown to aid learners with more shallow knowledge.[11]
- A meta-analysis analyzing the impact of access to OST tutoring resources found significant positive achievement gains for low-achieving or at-risk K-12 students in reading and mathematics.[12]

Metacognitive Techniques and Confidence

- Implementing metacognitive techniques such as reflection, goal-setting, and self-explanation has been shown to improve students' ability to self-monitor their own learning, engage in deep conceptual understanding, utilize critical-thinking skills, and succeed in transfer-of-knowledge tasks.[11,13,14,15,16]
- Process-oriented feedback techniques have been shown to support persistence in learning and challenge-seeking behaviors as measured by growth-goal setting.[17]
- Higher rates of timely and effective feedback have been shown to result in increased levels of self-efficacy and self-reported feelings of competence in students.[7]

References

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The TutorMe Logic Model

A logic model is a conceptual framework made to represent the expected outcomes of a program or product. A logic model should identify the key components of a program or product experience and show how these components can logically impact desired outcomes.

The TutorMe logic model outlines how TutorMe tutoring sessions are designed to deliver impactful instruction for K–12 students. The TutorMe logic model was designed to satisfy Level IV requirements (demonstrates a rationale) according to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), and serve as a framework for future efficacy studies.

Evidence-based learning strategies

With TutorMe's collaborative digital tools, tutors can utilize evidence-based learning strategies such as:

- Using a Modeling-Scaffolding-Fading approach
- Delivering personalized, process-oriented feedback and process praise to continuously encourage student persistence
- Facilitating the creation of a clear, goal-oriented session plan to aid students in accomplishing their learning goals
- Focusing on student-centered session designs, keeping students as the drivers of their learning experience by prompting them to demonstrate understanding and regularly use self-explanation
- Emphasizing metacognitive strategies by encouraging students to evaluate their own reasoning and reflect on the learning process
- Reinforcing critical thinking, problem solving, and decision-making techniques by engaging students in active discussion throughout the session
- Prompting higher-order thinking through questioning techniques and application tasks

Extensive research has illustrated that when these high-quality instructional techniques are utilized in a tutoring session, it can lead to impactful results. TutorMe has found these learning methodologies to be the foundation of successful tutoring.

Powerful benefits

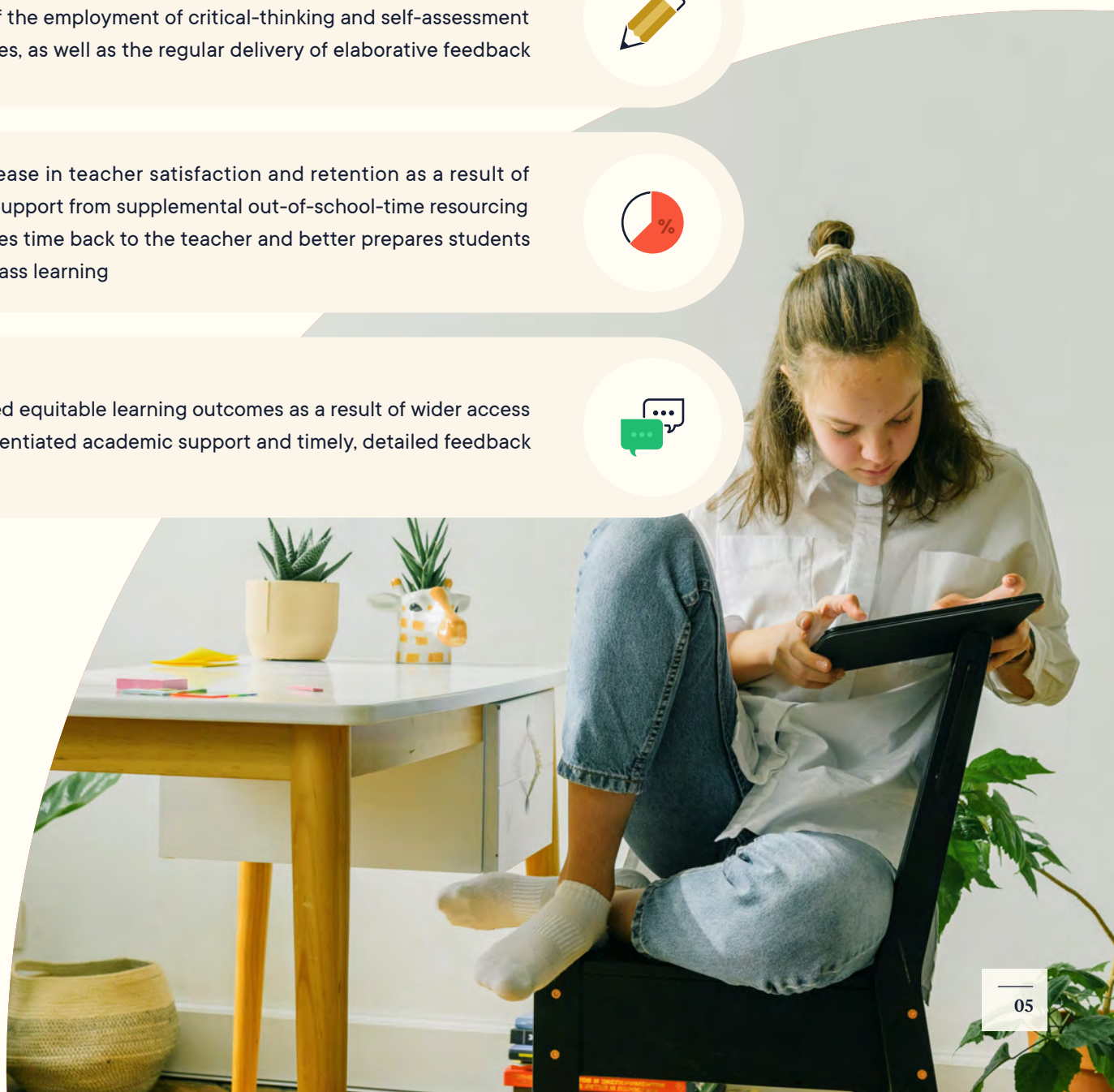
The research outlined in the TutorMe logic model points to the potential benefits when these learning methodologies are used to support effective instructional practices during a tutoring session. Based on the logic model framework, if the implementation of program activities is successful, schools and districts can expect the following outcomes:

Improved academic achievement and engagement outcomes as a result of personalized 1:1 quality learning experiences that incorporate research-backed instructional techniques

Improved metacognitive abilities and academic confidence as a result of the employment of critical-thinking and self-assessment strategies, as well as the regular delivery of elaborative feedback

An increase in teacher satisfaction and retention as a result of added support from supplemental out-of-school-time resourcing that gives time back to the teacher and better prepares students for in-class learning

Improved equitable learning outcomes as a result of wider access to differentiated academic support and timely, detailed feedback



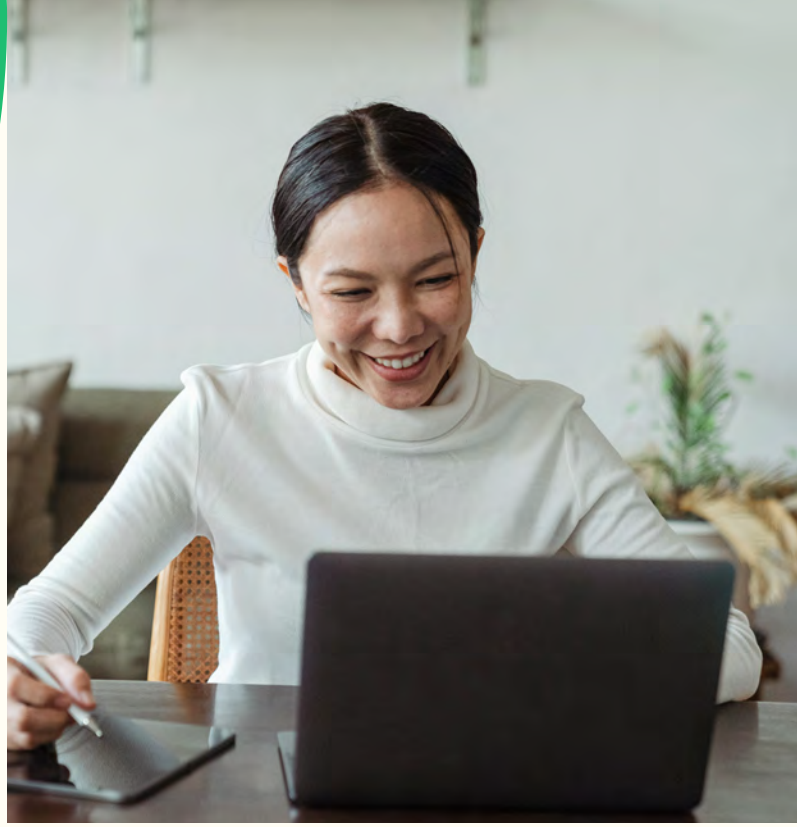
ARP ESSER funding for 1:1 tutoring

In 2021, the American Rescue Plan (ARP) allocated $122 billion to schools to address the impact of the coronavirus pandemic through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER), with funding options available through 2024.

20% of ARP ESSER funding can be utilized for the purchase of education technology tools with an evidence-based approach to addressing learning loss among students. TutorMe's logic model was designed to satisfy the Level IV requirements (Demonstrates a Rationale) of evidence established by Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The logic model serves as a framework for the evidence-based practices that are the guiding principles for tutoring on the TutorMe platform and demonstrates TutorMe's approach to tutoring through an evidence-based theory of action.

With TutorMe's tutoring services, students are connected 1:1 with an expert tutor that can provide direct support in addressing skill gaps and provide differentiated support. When following the TutorMe RAISE Approach, these tutoring sessions utilize learning methodologies to provide scaffolded instruction and feedback to every student.

20% of ARP ESSER funding can be utilized for the purchase of education technology tools



The TutorMe RAISE Approach

TutorMe's student-centric approach

The learning methodologies identified in the TutorMe logic model are used as a guiding light for the tutoring practices at TutorMe, particularly through the TutorMe RAISE Approach. TutorMe takes a student-centric approach to virtual support, employing RAISE to facilitate effective tutoring sessions. This method is centered on two principles to drive learner engagement:

01.

Ask Questions

We believe the student should be leading throughout the majority of the tutoring session. Tutors are encouraged to keep their explanations to one minute or less before engaging the student again through the usage of questioning techniques.

02.

Provide Feedback

Feedback is essential in creating a foundation of independent growth. Characteristics of high-quality feedback include being specific, timely, autonomy-supportive, and process, over person, praising. Tutors are encouraged to use feedback throughout a session and to give positive feedback to build student confidence.

The TutorMe RAISE Approach translates learning science into clear best practices tutors can apply.

Questioning & Feedback

Rapport-building

- Greet the student warmly by name
- Encourage the student to share what they need help with
- Meet the student in their preferred mode of communication
- State a goal for the session

Assess prior knowledge

- Give the student an opportunity to attempt the problem
- Use self-assessment or performance-based questions
- Push through “I don’t know” answers, refocusing on what they do know

Individualize instruction

- Ask questions that help the student articulate his/her thought process
- Provide hints and supports where needed, or break down problems
- Demonstrate alternative ways of solving if the student is struggling

Summarize learning

- Ask the student to recap the steps you took to solve the problem
- Have the student solve an analogous problem to demonstrate mastery
- Ask a metacognition question to assess student confidence

Encouragement

- Ask questions that help the student articulate his/her thought process
- Provide hints and supports where needed, or breakdown problems
- Demonstrate alternative ways of solving if the student is struggling

The 5 Steps of the TutorMe RAISE Approach

The TutorMe RAISE Approach is a 5-step process grounded in the research-backed practices outlined in the TutorMe logic model, serving as a guide to leading effective tutoring sessions.

Rapport-building

At the beginning of a session, tutors create a welcoming learning environment by **making a connection** and building rapport with the learner. This happens by greeting the student warmly, encouraging them to share what they need help with, and meeting the student in their preferred mode of communication whenever possible — whether that's through text-based chat or through live audio and/or video interactions.

After introductions and setup, the student and tutor are encouraged to set expectations and define a goal for the session before they get started.

EXAMPLE

Expectation setting: *"In tutoring, it's my job to ask you lots of questions. These help me to understand what you already know and where you need help."*

Defined goal: An example of a defined goal for a tutoring session is, *"By the end of our session, you'll be able to independently find the value of X by isolating the variable to one side."*

Assessment of prior knowledge

Tutors that follow the TutorMe RAISE Approach **assess the student's prior knowledge** to determine where the student is in their learning journey. By giving the student an opportunity to attempt the problem first using self-assessment or performance-based questions, the tutor receives valuable information not only about the gaps in the student's knowledge, but also about their learning approach and unique needs.

EXAMPLE

Prior-knowledge assessment techniques include:
"What do you remember about how your teacher taught this?"
"How would you start solving this problem?"
"What do you think this problem is asking us to do?"

When a student responds with "I don't know," tutors are encouraged to push through by refocusing the attention on what the student does know. An example of this is, *"It's okay that you don't remember how to add fractions — can you tell me what you do know about fractions?"*

Individualize instruction (scaffolding)

Following the TutorMe Raise Approach, the majority of a tutoring session is spent on **individualized instruction**. During this step, the RAISE Approach suggests tutors let the student lead as much as possible by using autonomy-supportive language and asking questions that help the student articulate their thought process.

EXAMPLE

Guiding questions include:
"What would you try to do next?"
"Why did you take that step?"
"What's a different way you could have approached this problem?"

When a student is stuck, the tutor can provide hints and support and/or break down the problem into smaller steps. Examples of supportive guidance include creating lists or using graphic organizers.

EXAMPLE

Supportive guidance:
In math sessions, tutors can suggest, *"Let's create a list together of all the factors for these numbers to find a common one."*

In a reading session, tutors can suggest, *"Let's use a graphic organizer so we can keep track of the important parts of the story as we read and write them down."*

These are only a few examples of the numerous strategies and lines that can be employed to encourage students.

When possible, tutors are encouraged to use recognizable steps like the FOIL method or PEMDAS. Tutors can also demonstrate alternative ways of problem solving, which allows for further personalization of the instruction.

EXAMPLE

Alternative ways of problem-solving:
If a student is stuck on a particularly difficult math problem, a tutor could provide choices, *"We could either add these numbers as mixed numbers, improper fractions, or decimals — which do you prefer?"*

Thanks to TutorMe's didactic learning environment, tutors can also provide visuals when needed. They can draw on the Lesson Space's whiteboard, upload an image, screenshare, or use the live video capability for a face-to-face explanation.

Summarize learning

As the session nears the end, the RAISE Approach advises tutors to work collaboratively with the learner to **summarize their learning**.

Summarization can occur in a variety of structures. For example, the tutor could ask the student to recap the steps taken in solving the problem or have the student work on an analogous problem to demonstrate mastery. Additionally, a tutor could ask a metacognitive question, such as:

EXAMPLE

Metacognitive questions:
"How confident are you on this topic now?"
"What's something you'd like to become more confident in?"

Encouragement

We believe the positive association with learning is an essential component of building independent learners. Therefore, a tutoring session guided by the TutorMe RAISE Approach always **ends with encouragement**.

During this step, the student and tutor can revisit the goal set at the start of the session and share honest feedback on the progress. Tutors are also encouraged to give process praise to the student for seeking help, such as stating:

EXAMPLE

Praise the student at the end of the session:
"You should be proud of yourself for working so hard today!"

Through feedback and process praise, tutors can help equip learners with the confidence and self-esteem to ascend and accelerate to the next level. At the end of the session, the tutor provides a recommendation for when the student should return for another tutoring session.

TutorMe is committed to building out an implementation system and standardized tutoring session experience guided by evidence-based practices in order to effectively support teacher and student outcomes.

These evidence-based practices are embodied in TutorMe's logic model and RAISE Approach. The logic model and RAISE Approach guide our implementation protocols and instructional strategies in outlining the key components of creating an effective and impactful tutoring session.

Every student deserves a tutor who can guide them to their light bulb moment. Empower your students with effective, personalized learning support. Contact us at partners@tutorme.com.