



Understanding the Investment in Intervention “Tutoring”

If you've been looking for help for your child, you've probably noticed that the cost of tutoring varies quite a bit. One tutor charges \$40 an hour, another charges \$75, while some specialists charge \$150 or more.

It's natural to wonder...why is there such a big difference?

The simple answer is that not all instruction is the same.

Some tutors provide homework help, practice, or general academic support. Those services can be incredibly valuable for many students. However, specialized literacy or math intervention is different. Its purpose isn't simply to help a child get through tonight's assignment—it's to change the way they process information so they can become independent, confident readers, writers, or mathematicians.

As a certified dyslexia interventionist who has taught hundreds of students to read and write, I understand how overwhelming this decision can feel. Every parent wants to find the right help while also making a wise financial investment. When you're already worried about your child's future, comparing prices can leave you wondering what you're actually paying for.

My hope is that this guide helps answer that question. I'll explain why specialized intervention costs what it does, what goes on behind every session, and what to look for when choosing someone to work with your child.

What Does Intervention Typically Cost?

The cost of intervention varies depending on where you live, the instructor's training and experience, the type of instruction being provided, and whether you're working with a general tutor or a certified practitioner.

In general, families can expect to pay approximately:

- \$40–\$70 per session for general reading/writing/math tutoring or homework support
- \$75–\$100 per session for experienced teachers
- \$100–\$150+ per session for specialized intervention provided by professionals with advanced training, certifications, and extensive experience
- At Altitude, we charge \$100 per 45-minute session

While it's tempting to compare tutors based on hourly rates alone, it's important to consider the value of the instruction you're receiving. Less expensive isn't always less effective, but specialized intervention often requires knowledge and expertise that takes years to develop, often making it more expensive.

Why Does Specialized Intervention Cost More?

Many people picture tutoring as sitting beside a child while they read a book together. Effective intervention is much more than that.

Children with dyslexia and other language-based reading difficulties need explicit, carefully planned instruction that addresses the underlying skills required for skilled reading and spelling. Instruction is constantly adjusted based on how the student responds.

A skilled interventionist isn't simply following a scripted program or working through a workbook. They're analyzing errors, identifying patterns, making instructional decisions in real time, and continually determining what the student needs next. That level of expertise comes from years of study, training, and experience- not simply years spent teaching.

Reading Tutor vs. Literacy Interventionist or Specialist

Not every child who struggles with reading has dyslexia, and not every reading tutor is trained to remediate reading difficulties.

A general reading tutor may focus on:

- Reading practice
- Homework assistance
- Fluency practice
- Comprehension strategies
- Classroom assignments

These services are appropriate for many students.

A literacy interventionist or specialist, however, is working toward a different goal: changing the student's reading system so they can decode unfamiliar words, spell accurately, read more fluently, and comprehend increasingly complex text.

Intervention typically targets:

- Phonemic awareness
- Speech sounds and print relationships
- Decoding
- Encoding (spelling)
- Word recognition
- Reading fluency
- Vocabulary
- Reading comprehension

The ultimate goal isn't simply getting through today's session and helping students complete their assigned schoolwork, it's giving students the skills they need to become lifelong readers.

What Are You Really Paying For?

When families compare tutoring rates, it's easy to focus on only the time the practitioner spends with your child.

In reality, that's only a small part of the work.

Every successful session begins long before the student walks through the door.

Behind each session is time spent:

- Reviewing previous lesson notes or evaluation reports from outside providers
- Analyzing student performance
- Planning the next instructional steps
- Creating individualized practice materials
- Selecting appropriate reading passages
- Monitoring progress
- Communicating with families
- Continuing professional learning to stay current with reading research

In other words, you're not simply paying for the time your child is being instructed.

You're investing in the expertise, preparation, precise decision-making, and experience that make those sessions meaningful.

Why Do Some Tutors Charge Less?

There are many wonderful tutors who charge lower rates, and many provide excellent support for students.

Some may be:

- Classroom teachers
- Retired teachers
- College or graduate students
- Homework helpers
- Reading practice tutors
- Volunteers

These individuals often make a meaningful difference for children who need additional practice, accountability, or encouragement.

But helping a child practice reading is different from effectively teaching a child who has not yet developed the underlying skills needed to become a proficient reader.

The difference isn't about dedication or caring more.

It's about specialized knowledge, training, experience, and results.

Questions Every Parent Should Ask

Whether you're considering working with an Altitude Tutoring practitioner or another professional, I encourage every family to ask these questions before making a decision.

What training do you have?

- Reading difficulties require specialized knowledge. Ask about certifications, continuing education, and how the tutor stays current with reading research.
- At Altitude, all practitioners are Masters level teachers certified in the EBLI approach with a decade or more of experience teaching children to read and write. Our math interventionist has a Master's degree in Mathematics and has a decade of teaching experience with specialized training in multisensory math.

How do you determine what my child needs?

- Every struggling learner is different. Instruction should be based on assessment, observation, and ongoing progress monitoring.
- At Altitude, every student begins with a comprehensive assessment to analyze their specific needs. Your practitioner will carefully observe your child's reading, writing, and/or math behaviors, as well as personal interests to tailor instruction accordingly. You'll receive a detailed

report explaining these findings, and we provide regular progress monitoring to ensure the instruction stays effective and you stay informed.

Are lessons individualized?

- No two children learn exactly the same way. Effective intervention adjusts based on how the student responds, rather than moving every child through the same sequence at the same pace.
- At Altitude, lessons are adjusted to meet the individual needs of every child.

What instructional approach do you use?

- A tutor should be able to explain not only what they do, but why they do it.
- For our literacy intervention at Altitude, we use Evidence Based Literacy Instruction (EBLI). All practitioners are certified in this approach. This approach is used because we feel it yields the most effective and efficient results when it comes to literacy instruction. Some practitioners are also trained in Releasing Writers (think SRSD) to address writing needs specifically.
- For math intervention at Altitude, Maira Mujtaba, M.S., employs a research-based approach grounded in the Science of Math. Maira emphasizes understanding the "why" through visualization, integrating Montessori and Singapore Math methodologies. Students progress from hands-on virtual manipulatives to visual models and finally to abstract numerical representation, building a deep and lasting conceptual understanding.

What experience do you have with students like my child?

- Experience matters. Ask about the types of reading difficulties they commonly address and the age groups they typically serve.
- At Altitude, we have extensive experience teaching neurodiverse students including those with: dyslexia, dysgraphia, dyscalculia, ADHD, autism, hearing loss, speech/language disorders, auditory processing disorder, and developmental delays.

What should I expect as a parent?

- Reading intervention is a partnership. Your tutor should communicate honestly, set realistic expectations, and help you understand how to support your child's growth between sessions.
- At Altitude, you can expect frequent communication on how your child is progressing. You are also welcome to reach out to your child's practitioner or our owner, Brandy Gulliford, directly with any questions. We are always available to you and happy to answer your questions.

Remember...

The best tutor isn't automatically the least expensive or the most expensive.

The right professional is the one whose training, experience, personality, and instructional approach best match your child's needs.

A skilled literacy practitioner should be able to explain not only what they're teaching, but why they're teaching it and how that instruction will help your child become a stronger, more confident reader.

Final Thoughts

Choosing intervention “tutoring” is about much more than comparing hourly rates. It's about investing in instruction that has the potential to change the trajectory of your child's life.

I've seen firsthand how the right instruction can transform not only skills, but also confidence, resilience, and a child's belief in themselves. As both an experienced dyslexia interventionist and mom, I understand that this is a significant financial and emotional decision. It's one that deserves careful consideration.

When you're comparing providers, look beyond the price. Ask about their training, their instructional approach, how they assess and monitor progress, and how they individualize instruction. Those answers will tell you far more than an hourly rate ever could.

Because when intervention is done well, you're not simply paying for “tutoring”. You're investing in the opportunity for your child to become a capable, confident, lifelong learner.

Please don't hesitate to reach out via email or phone if you have any further questions.

Kind regards,

Brandy N. Gulliford

M.A. Ed., M.S., C-SLDI

Founder and Owner

[Altitude Tutoring](#)

bgulliford@altitudetutoring.com

303-801-0148



Certified
Instructor

