

MOM profile

Making a Difference - Staci Becker

BY JACQUELINE BODNAR



ONLINE RESOURCES

For more info:

How to become a tutor
www.wikihow.com/Become-a-Tutor

How to tell if your child needs a tutor
www.mamashealth.com/child/tutor.asp

Volunteer as a tutor in Montgomery County
www.literacycouncilmcmd.org/volujump.html

When I was 15 years old

and a sophomore in high school, I remember coming home from school one day and telling my parents that I hated Geometry. No matter how many notes I took, or how many hours I stayed after school or studied through the night, I just couldn't "get it." My parents, sympathetic to my woes, but unable to offer much academic guidance, simply advised me to "keep at it." And I did, and I made it through Geometry, as well as Algebra, Trig, and even Statistics in the years to follow. But with each advancing class came advancing stress, tears, and sleepless nights, and a decreasing GPA. While I made it through this litany of mathematical torture (as I affectionately referred to it), and kept my GPA afloat with high grades in my other subjects, my four years of high school definitely could have been less of a struggle had I had some outside support.

Hindsight, of course, is 20/20. Although I cannot redo my high school years, what I can do is use my hindsight to help students currently facing struggles similar to mine. This is the reason I decided, about ten years ago, after graduating from Cornell University, to work as a tutor for TutorPro.

I knew there must be kids in the DC Metro area in need of help with subject areas in which I now

had expertise. TutorPro put me in contact with a variety of such students. In the last ten years, I have tutored students of all different abilities, backgrounds, cultures, languages, family dynamics, and motivation levels. I have laughed, cried, and commiserated with my students, and attended numerous birthday parties, graduations, school plays, and lacrosse games. Not only have I had great success helping my students academically, I have created strong bonds with some truly wonderful kids and their families that have lasted beyond the tutoring relationship.

This type of support and guidance is exactly what I needed when I was in high school and I can only speculate what a difference it would have made for me. This is why I never take for granted any opportunity to work with a student one-on-one. Tutoring requires a lot of time, focus, energy, effort, and patience, all of which are small sacrifices for the opportunity to impact a student's life. [wikihow.com](http://www.wikihow.com)

In addition to working for TutorPro, Staci Becker has taught for the last seven years at Falls Church High School for the AVID program, a college preparatory course. TutorPro has been providing tutoring services to the Washington DC Metropolitan area for 11 years. Their web address is www.thetutorpro.com.