

Students Succeed With Sylvan Learning Centers

For a struggling student, it's not any specific skill that is most important. It is a combination of skills and the motivation and confidence needed to succeed in all subjects.

And that, along with an individualized academic program and diagnostic testing, is what Sylvan Learning Centers provide.

Linda Hoagland is the owner of two Sylvan Learning Centers: one in Troy at 3250 West Big Beaver, Suite 101 and one in Utica, at 45200 Sterritt, Suite 103.

"We're hearing from parents that after students attend our Centers, not only have the student's academics improved, but there is an overall attitude change," she said. "The students are happier in school. The grades improve, and that is certainly something we look for. But, the students are stronger students with more confidence in themselves."

Sylvan Learning Centers cater to both adults and children, Hoagland said. Many clients are middle school students, seeking help with reading, writing, mathematics or study skills. Sylvan works with the schools to help the student succeed in the classroom.

Students are administered an academic diagnostic test in each specific area before attending the Center. Instruction is two sessions a week, an hour each session for a period of five to six months. Every 36 instructional hours, the student is retested. If the child has not improved one grade level, the Center provides up to 12 more hours of instruction at no cost.

Students work in groups of three stu-

dents to one instructor. Each instructor is a certified teacher. Each student is instructed in an individualized program based on the results of the initial tests.

"It's not a quick fix," said Hoagland. "But it is consistent and it works for our students."

The program includes a reward system in which students earn tokens that can be traded for various items at an in-house "store." Older students, for example can earn gift certificates to such places as the Gap and Harmony House. The reward system helps build a student's confidence and self-esteem.

Linda Hoagland started the Troy Center 12 years ago with a partner and expanded to the Utica location seven years ago. She became sole owner this past March. The staff currently consists of 34 people. All the instructors are Michigan Certified teachers and receive specialized in-house training.

Right now, Hoagland said that she had no plans to expand and open more Sylvan Learning Centers. "I just took over on March 1," she said. "So, right now I'm still restructuring the administrative staff."

"But, I do have three daughters," she added. "Katie just graduated from college as a business major, Jenny is a junior in college and shows a strong interest in working with children in some capacity. And, Jackie is a whiz on the computer. So you never know."

The Sylvan Learning Centers can be reached at (810) 643-7323 for the Troy office, or in Utica at (810) 739-0270.



Lynn Hoagland, Marge Lefreer and Kim Nowak of Sylvan Learning Center.

Sylvan works when others don't.

When a child experiences bad grades, parents often don't know where to turn. Some try to work with the child themselves, others try after-school help, many try tutors. We'd like you to consider Sylvan.

With Sylvan, my grades finally got better. A lot better.

Our unique approach to supplemental education has made Sylvan the industry leader for over 16 years. We have the experience, resources and proven results that many traditional tutoring methods may lack. Our process begins with a thorough assessment that uncovers your child's skill gaps and pinpoints exactly where the learning process has broken down.

This is important for two reasons. First, it allows Sylvan to develop a personalized learning program that will achieve measurable results. Second, it identifies where we need to begin so your child experiences immediate success. This, coupled with Sylvan's system of positive reinforcement, propels to even greater success. You'll see better grades, increased motivation, greater confidence and improved self-esteem.

Call Sylvan today to learn how we can help your child. With over 600 locations, better grades are just around the corner.

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Linda Hoagland, Director

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