

SUCCESS! Learning Center *presents*

THE SPOT

Headin' for **SUCCESS!**

April 26, 2010

No. 29

Summer Session Success

*Reading, Writing, and Math Skills
Are Crucial for College*

Many elementary students will work on reviewing and enriching their language arts and math skills during the SLC Summer Session. Language arts classes include reading comprehension, writing compositions, expanding vocabulary, improving grammar, and oral presentations. Math modules include computation, word problems, logic and analysis, and basic algebra (as appropriate).

Students can also focus on only math or only language arts if needed. We will discuss

Continued on Page 2

Why Teach Logic?

See Page 3



Now Enrolling

Seven-Week Summer Session

June 21-August 5, 2010

Classes Meet Monday through Thursday

Applications for our seven-week Summer Session are now being accepted. Success! Learning Center is a non-profit educational and tutoring center, and we are committed to serving our community by offering high-quality academic instruction at the lowest tuition possible. See page 2 for schedule and fees..

Of course, at these low rates it is not possible for us to offer any discount for days missed. If you know your family vacation plans in advance, we will try to schedule your student(s) for make-up days in another class.

Please note that classes meet four days per week, Monday through Thursday (no Friday classes), for a total of 63 hours of instruction over the seven-week session. Our class times are 8:00-10:15 a.m., 10:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m., and 1:30-3:30 p.m. We offer a discount for students taking multiple classes or for family members enrolled in the same session.

Each year several Learning Center classes fill completely before mid-June. Our individualized curriculum and extremely low student-teacher ratio (one teacher or teacher aide for every four students) limit the number of spaces available in our learning groups. Be sure to register early!

Registration information is on page 2. Please call the Director for more information or to schedule an appointment for enrollment.

Success! Learning Center

a non-profit educational and tutoring center

Tutoring, test preparation, and homework assistance for students in grades 3-12

Director: Cliveden Chew Haas

Location: 355 Dixon Road, Milpitas

Phone: (408) 263-9754

E-mail: success@cliveden.com

Website: www.successlearningcenter.org

Class Schedule & Fees

7-Week Summer Session June 21-August 5, 2010

Please Note: Classes meet Monday through Thursday (no Friday classes)

Class #1: 8:00–10:15 a.m.

Class #2: 10:30 a.m.–12:45 p.m.

Class #3: 1:30–3:30 p.m.



Class #1 or #2 (63 hours)

\$640.00 (two payments of \$320 each, second payment due 7/19/10)

OR \$576 paid in advance (10% discount)

Two or more students in same family

Or multiple classes (same student)

\$50.00 discount per additional student or class

Class #3 (56 hours)

\$570.00 (two payments of \$285 each, second payment due 7/19/10)

OR \$513 paid in advance (10% discount)

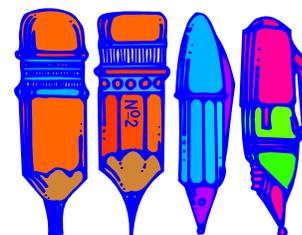
Two or more students in same family

Or multiple classes (same student)

\$45.00 discount per additional student or class

Summer Session Success (Continued from Page 1)

each student's academic progress with the parent, complete any placement testing necessary, and then create an individual curriculum plan for that student based his or her needs, strengths, and weaknesses. Students work on their own study plans, moving through enrichment and review material at their own pace, with additional reinforcement exercises as needed. And, of



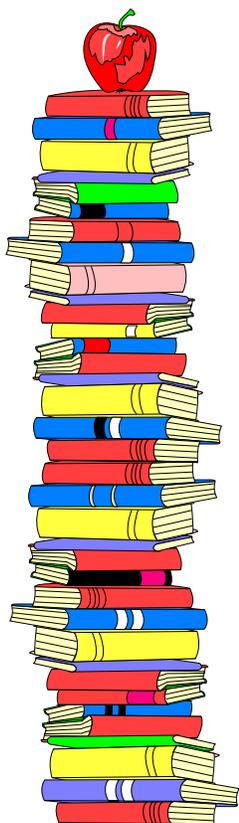
course, each class is led by a credentialed teacher.

High school students often work on one or two particular areas for improvement, typically reading and writing for college or math skills, or they may focus on preparing for specific classes such as Geometry, Calculus, Honors English, or Chemistry. Many students will also work on College Board exam skills, taking practice SAT tests, and working on reading comprehension, vocabulary, composition, grammar, and math practice exercises to develop their test-taking skills and improve their scores.

As always, we talk with the student and the parents and prepare an individual plan of study for each student. Whether we study one class or several, focus on college writing skills or on preparing for AP American Government, we work with each student to improve study skills, organization, and classroom success.

We give any necessary placement testing to students during the first hours of the summer session class. There is no additional fee for placement tests.

Please visit our website for more information or to print the registration forms. We'll be happy to answer questions, explain our academic subjects, and mail more information, forms, etc. Remember to register early! Phone, e-mail, and website information is on Page 1.



Why Teach Logic?

by Mark Gaare

When hearing the word “logic”, many people can’t help but think of Mr. Spock from *Star Trek*. That’s right, Spock: the cold-blooded alien who has few friends and thinks without emotion, like a robot. Well, logic is much more than that. Logic is a philosophy and a way of thinking that dates back over 2,500 years to ancient Greece and India. **Logic simply means making sense.** Logic has many applications, including debate, sales, law, investigations, management, electronic design, computer programming, and all forms of mathematics. In fact, logic is one of the few underlying skills that has roots in language, science, **and** mathematics.



Logic is a series of reasons that support a certain position or decision as being the right one.

Now of course, not everyone can think like Mr. Spock. We humans use a combination of logic and emotions every day in our decision making. Understandably, everyone takes shortcuts in their logical reasoning in order to save time and brainpower. But politicians and salespeople often use erroneous logic in order to persuade untrained minds. As the old saying goes: **“There’s a sucker born every minute.”** No one wants their child to be gullible! The best way to combat that is learning to think logically. And if you don’t understand someone else’s logic, ask them to explain it.



Logical decision-making is highly valued by companies and bosses today. It is explainable, understandable, and somewhat predictable. As an employee, have you ever been asked to explain your reasons for some action or decision? Logical thinking adds a sense of **authority** to any decision, process, or action.

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Logic combined with creativity leads to independent thinking, new ideas, and strong problem-solving skills. Every essay, every research project, every business proposal, and most life problems require logic and analysis to understand the problem, figure out a solution, and present the results coherently in a way others can understand. Smart people are trained thinkers who use logic as comfortably as they use words and numbers.

Three basic concepts of logic are:

1. cause-and-effect
2. process-of-elimination
3. deduction

Cause-and-effect seems simple at first, but both patience and practice are needed to slow down a student's instinct to respond too quickly to every problem. In order to approach and tackle complex situations, multiple steps may need to be planned in advance. In order to beat a tough opponent in a sporting event (or even in business), one must often "**outsmart**" them. Outsmarting someone usually means thinking through several "what-if" scenarios before the encounter: "If I do this, how will the situation change?" "How will my opponent react?"



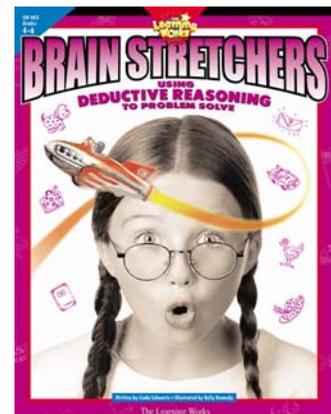
Process-of-elimination is simply the elimination of everything that does not lead to a solution. It is a highly-effective technique for scoring well on multiple-choice tests. **Deduction**, on the other hand, starts with the theory of a possible solution, then works to prove or disprove it by examining its individual elements. The famous detective Sherlock Holmes made brilliant deductions by combining many small proofs and assumptions into a larger understanding of guilt or innocence. And the process-of-elimination enabled him to prove things "**without a doubt**", that is, without guessing. Guessing often leads students to make mistakes in their schoolwork. At Success!

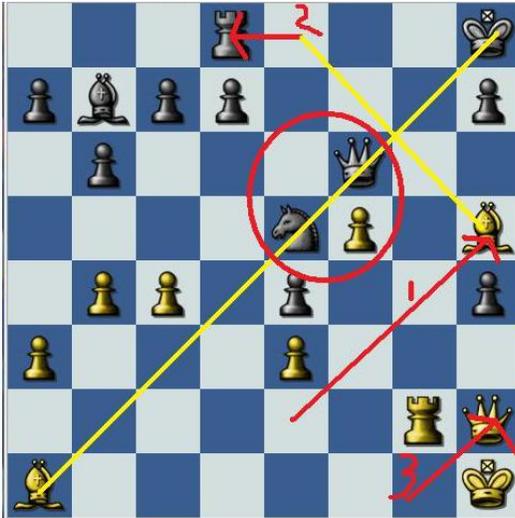
Learning Center, we strive to give students the knowledge and skills they need to be confident in all their reasoning and choices.

In the past, training in logic was only offered to gifted students (G.A.T.E.). In today's schools, logic is still not emphasized in the standards or the mainstream classroom. Yet the underlying skill of logic emerges in other standards such as persuasive writing, the scientific method, and mathematical proofs, and it is a major component of academic success.

Tools for Teaching Logic

There are many tools and techniques that we use at Success! Learning Center to teach logic. **Quizzes** and **Brain Stretchers** are a great set of pencil-and-paper puzzles that teach close reading and logical analysis. Just like Sherlock Holmes' famous method, solving these puzzles requires many deductive steps and careful attention to detail. Most of the clues in Quizzes don't even give you answers! But they do eliminate all the extraneous things that aren't part of the solution.





Chess is the game of kings and queens, and it is one of the oldest games of strategy that is still played today. Chess is taught every year in our elementary classroom. Our students really enjoy learning and playing chess using our teaching worksheets, chessboards, and computer chess programs. While chess is easy to learn, its challenges can last a lifetime. Developing good chess skills forces our students to slow down their thinking. In chess, nothing is random, but there are often hidden threats. Rushed moves are **the #1 way to lose in chess**. So students work to analyze the situation on the board *before* they make their next move. They learn to think carefully and to think several steps ahead.

Math Blasters is a series of computer games that are excellent for practicing math skills and learning new ones such as logic. For instance, in the **Number Recycler** activity, students must create their own equations from a limited set of numbers and operations. Students must ask themselves: "What will work here, and what won't?" In **Cave Runner**, students must think and do the math *before* they blindly react to the animated water drops. "Which water drop will bring me closer to the number I need?"



Mastermind is another classic game that teaches logic. Originally released in 1970, Mastermind was a board game for 2 players. Since then, there have been many handheld and computer versions developed. The game can even be played on paper, and is still being used in Bay Area middle schools. The object of Mastermind is to solve a code that has been created and hidden by another player or by the computer. After each guess, the seeker is given a small set of clues that they can use to get them closer to solving the hidden code. A popular event in our elementary classroom is the **Mastermind Tournament**, where students match their logic skills against one another for prizes and recognition.

These are just some of the tools that we use here at Success! Learning Center to teach logic skills. Students learn to think better, think clearer, and think smarter. Parents are invited to visit us any time to see these successful tools in action!