



# Virtual Summer Learning Programs



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## WELCOME TO OUR VIRTUAL SUMMER LEARNING CAMPUS!

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted schooling for millions of students across Ontario. A recent report estimates that children have lost two thirds of an academic year due to school closure (UNESCO, 2021). Students with learning disabilities and other challenges are losing prior knowledge gains and often struggle to keep up with the material in their classes. The impact of the interruption will likely be steeper for students in the higher grades, and particularly in cumulative subjects such as math (Cooper et al., 1996). According to a 2020 study by McKinsey & Company, the amount of learning students lose during COVID-19 school closures depends on “access to remote learning, the quality of remote instruction, home support, and the degree of engagement.”

No educational program is as effective in accelerating the reading and math achievement of struggling students as structured one-to-one and small-group tutoring (Slavin et al., 2020). One of the oldest and most versatile forms of education, frequent and individualized tutoring yields “consistent and substantial positive impacts on learning outcomes” that are particularly strong among the earlier grades (Nickow et al., 2020). When it comes to remediating the learning loss caused by the pandemic, tutoring can address knowledge gaps and help students get back on track when they are falling behind.



### Providing Students with Equitable and Inclusive Opportunities to Advance Their Learning: How Evoke Can Help

- We ensure that students have a thorough understanding of their current grade-level curriculum, and can reteach or help students to relearn concepts and material they are struggling with so that they are well prepared for next year.
- We reinforce concepts in math, science, and literacy, to improve academic outcomes, ensure understanding, and to assist students in achieving grade-level expectations and achievement levels.
- We offer critical skill development and remediation in math, reading and writing for elementary and high school students.
- We teach students the key foundational concepts necessary for academic performance, informed by current cognitive science, such as how to study, note-taking strategies, managing procrastination, and time management.
- We assist students who have self-regulation and processing challenges who may need more individual support for learning and more time to understand and retain material.
- We provide Academic Strategists and tutors to high school students who are taking online courses over the summer, helping them stay on task, understand material, complete assignments, and prepare for tests and exams.
- We help students develop routines and keep them engaged—the majority of our students have ADHD and executive functioning challenges—we’re the experts!

### A Better Online Learning Experience

At Evoke Learning, we offer one-to-one services designed with client engagement, experiences, and convenience in mind. The perks of our online programs include:

- No driving or waiting! Students don’t need to be dropped off or picked up. That’s a lot less stress (and good for the planet, too). Parents don’t have to be present for students to engage in their work.
- Mobility: It doesn’t matter where you live, you can connect with Evoke from anywhere!
- Portability: Students moving from high school to postsecondary education don’t have to end their support with Evoke—you can take us with you.
- Flexibility: We can adapt to your family’s busy schedule. We can also align our instruction with the length of time a student can focus. Our sessions are available in 30, 45, 60, and 90-minute formats.
- Good health: There’s no risk of catching or sharing illnesses when you’re working remotely.
- Digital literacy: One-to-one online learning encourages students to become more computer savvy and comfortable with technology, skills they’ll need both in their postsecondary career and in the workplace.
- Coordination: Students can get organized more easily online, electronically, which is a relief for people with executive function challenges who tend to lose or misplace items such as assignment instructions, test outlines, or completed work.
- Privacy: Students work in a private learning environment without any social pressure. Students who may be sensitive to being labeled or standing out can relax and not worry about others observing them.
- Expertise: A remote learning environment means that we can offer our students access to the very best practitioners. Students can also work with multiple instructors who specialize in different subjects and services without being constrained by where they live.

## MATH

Students struggle in math and have gaps in their learning for a variety of reasons: lack of self-efficacy, challenges with focus and staying on task, mindset, problems with processing information at the same rate as their peers, deficits in psychological processes (such as working memory), and inadequate practice to master concepts and skills. Studies have consistently highlighted the fact that low achievement in math at the secondary school level can often be traced to deficits in the understanding of certain basic concepts taught in elementary school. At Evoke, our math programs give students the extra time to learn these important skills and concepts and address their learning deficits, bridging the gap for those who are behind in math and ensuring that the learning gap doesn't widen.

### Remediation

Studies demonstrate that successful remediation requires explicit instruction and intense intervention. Geared toward students who have been falling behind in math and those with gaps in their learning, Evoke's math remediation program focuses on identifying and addressing academic gaps in math for students in Grades 3 through 12. The program begins with a diagnostic assessment that allows us to pinpoint the specific concepts and curriculum expectations with which a student is struggling and to remediate them. The program gives students the extra time to learn important skills and concepts and address their learning deficits, bridging the gap for students who are behind in math and ensuring it doesn't grow.

Evoke offers two summer learning math packages:

- 10 sessions between June 14-September 6, 2021. Does not include math diagnostic.
- OR
- 20 sessions between June 14-September 6, 2021. Includes math diagnostic.

### Recovery

Many students have lost several weeks of math instruction because of the pandemic. This program is for the student who does not traditionally struggle in math but is concerned about having missed the introduction of essential concepts and academic content or requires a little more time to process and understand certain concepts. The program begins with a diagnostic to identify the gaps based on the student's current grade. A tutor works with the student to fill in those gaps to master concepts before the next academic year.

### Booster

If a student wants to move ahead to begin the next grade curriculum to ensure a strong performance for next year, they can select this "go ahead" program. Tutors will work with students to provide greater exposure to—and a jump-start on—the next academic year's curriculum. Students are introduced to the materials to facilitate a deeper understanding, mastery of key concepts, and enhanced confidence.

## READING

### Reading Remediation for French Immersion and English Stream Students; Grades 1–12

Students who are unable to read words fluently and efficiently will continue to expend the majority of their limited cognitive resources painstakingly trying to decode letter-sound correspondence, with little to no resources remaining for the demanding task of comprehension. Slow, stilted reading is difficult and frustrating. Weak readers are less likely to practice reading and so do not improve their skills and vocabulary, or build fluency and automaticity. Struggling readers require explicit, structured reading instruction (teaching that leaves nothing to chance and makes no assumptions). Early intervention is critical. Students with reading difficulties do not catch up without systematic and intensive intervention and practice; this involves considerable time on task, consistency, duration of instruction, and evidence-based approaches based in reading science.

At Evoke, we use research-validated strategies based on the science of reading in all of our programming. Through intervention, direct instruction, training, and practice, students make significant improvements in their reading skills.

Program features include:

- Phonological and phonemic awareness
- Word Studies to promote orthographic mapping
- Word-level reading fluency practice
- Spelling instruction
- Morphological instruction and vocabulary development

Prior to remediation, students undergo an assessment with a Speech-Language Pathologist aimed at identifying gaps in their reading skills to ensure intervention is targeted and strategic. At the end of the remediation sessions, students are evaluated using the same assessments, highlighting the gains that have been achieved and providing the family with a record of student improvement.

## WRITING

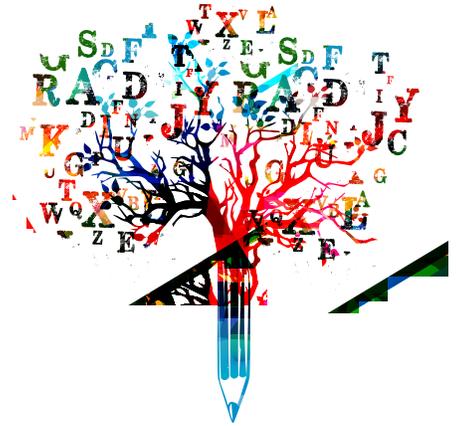
### Academic Writing Strategies; Grade 4–Postsecondary

Evidence-based research shows that struggling writers can improve their skills dramatically if they receive the detailed, explicit instruction they need (Graham & Harris, 2005). Such strategies can improve the writing skills of students with learning disabilities and are equally effective for individuals who just need extra help.

Evoke's Academic Writing Strategies program teaches students, step-by-step, evidence-based strategies that assist with every phase of the writing process, from brainstorming and goal setting to proofreading and revision—strategies that have been researched and proven to work with students at all levels, and especially those who are challenged by learning disabilities. Together, the student and tutor will identify the greatest roadblocks to the student's writing and choose the strategies that will best address their challenges. Our writing strategies are research-informed, and introduced gradually as the student demonstrates understanding and mastery.

The writing process demands a lot from our brains, requiring us to perform multiple tasks simultaneously. Many students with executive function challenges, ADHD and learning disabilities have a difficult time organizing their writing.

Students work one-to-one with a tutor and are provided with the explicit strategy instruction required to enhance their writing skills and boost their confidence.



### Virtual Learning and Instruction - Strategies for All Learners

Evoke specializes in working with students with ADHD and self-regulation challenges and understands their unique profiles and learning needs. We use evidence-based best practices for virtual instruction and learning. We use strategies, effective approaches, structure, and tools to enhance student engagement. Student achievement is important to us. Evoke uses measurable outcomes to track student progress through standardized assessments (where possible), weekly feedback communication from practitioners, and student progress tracking summaries to highlight the mastery of strategies, accomplishments, and areas of challenge. Evoke offers interactive and engaging sessions, and we utilize screen sharing, interactive whiteboards, and online tools and resources that we'll teach your child (or you) to use. Our practitioners enlist technology to illustrate concepts and details by using photos, animations, drawings, and diagrams.

## COACHING, MENTORING, LEARNING AND STUDY SKILLS

### Academic Foundations: Strategies to Enhance Learning and Executive Function

Evoke's Academic Foundations program introduces students (Grade 7–postsecondary) to key foundational concepts and skills necessary for academic performance. Informed by current cognitive science, the program focuses on both academic skills and noncognitive factors such as procrastination, the science of success, and the nature of ADHD. Students are introduced to information, resources, strategies, and tools that will help them navigate the academic curriculum, develop executive function skills and enhance their learning, organizational, and study skills. Students engage in conversations about the cognitive science principles of learning, time management, procrastination, study skills, misunderstandings about learning, motivation, and note-taking skills. This information is particularly helpful for those students with executive functioning challenges.



### Academic Coaching, Mentoring, and Executive Function Support

Evoke's coaches and mentors work directly, one-to-one, with students engaging in academic courses over the summer to help them achieve their academic and personal goals and acquire new skills and approaches to their learning. This program helps students manage their time, establish strong work habits, develop helpful learning skills and strategies, and strengthen and manage their executive function abilities. This program supports students who find it difficult to stay organized, plan ahead, initiate work, and remain on task. Coaches and mentors work directly with students to address challenges as they arise and show them how to initiate and break down assignments into manageable chunks.

## PERSONALIZED HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT PROGRAM

This program is designed for students interested in, or currently taking, online summer courses. An Evoke tutor works one-to-one with the student to keep them organized, supported, and on task.

Benefits of this program include:

- Uninterrupted learning, regardless of what happens in the fall, to ensure that the student can earn their credit/s
- Work-checks by tutors before students submit assignments, and feedback to allow for deeper learning and increased achievement scores
- Preparation for upcoming tests and exams, reteaching concepts as required/needed
- Help for students who need more time processing information and benefit from working at their own pace
- Assistance for students in planning for a reduced course load for the next year
- Increased depth in the student's learning of the subject matter
- The opportunity to make up lost credits
- Assistance for students who have executive function challenges and need to be supported in their online learning

## POSTSECONDARY PREPARATION

### Postsecondary Planning

Students managing learning differences and other demands on their time are frequently at a disadvantage when it comes to guidance counselling. Many students are unsure of their options and have difficulty organizing their approach, getting adequate time with counsellors, and identifying their strengths and interests. Our academic mentors understand that the postsecondary environment is competitive and that it is extremely important for students with learning disabilities to pursue their education and career goals at an institution that fits their needs and abilities. At Evoke, we alleviate anxiety for our students (and their families) by helping them ensure that they have the prerequisite courses and experiences to make successful postsecondary choices. Our mentoring sessions are student-centered, and we ask our clients open-ended questions to discover what inspires, motivates, and engages them. We move beyond traditional standardized questionnaires to give students an early, personalized, thoughtful, and comprehensive plan for thriving in a postsecondary environment.



### Transition to Postsecondary

In the move to college or university, students often lose the essential supports they received in high school. As a result, many struggle both academically and emotionally. Evoke offers personalized mentoring focused on the development of metacognitive skills. Our mentors identify effective strategies and solutions that help students bridge the gap between ability and performance, and transition to postsecondary studies. Mentors focus on increasing the individual's ability to plan, prioritize, and organize, and emphasize a proactive approach to learning. Our program supports students in their transition by helping them to create a vision for the kind of postsecondary experience they want to have, define their goals and implement action steps to achieve them. Through Evoke's Transition to Postsecondary program, students learn to develop key academic strategies, understand how to access available resources, and how to make a successful transition to postsecondary studies.

### Financial Literacy for Students; Grade 11–Postsecondary

It's so easy for young adults to fall into financial traps and poor decisions about money can take decades to fix. Learning to manage their personal finances now means that students will be prepared when the time comes to set financial goals, follow best practices, and prevent and protect themselves against fraud and financial abuse. Understanding the fundamentals of budgeting, saving, debt, and investing is critical in every part of life and students require the knowledge and skills for making sound financial decisions, engaging in good saving habits, budgeting, and building a solid credit score. This program is especially helpful to individuals who are transitioning to postsecondary education and/or students with ADHD who may find managing finances particularly difficult due to challenges with procrastination, disorganization, and impulsivity.