

Tutor Spotlight



We're excited to present our **Tutor Spotlight** — a chance to get to know the incredible virtual tutors behind BookNook's high-impact success. These spotlights celebrate the dedication, creativity, and passion the tutors bring to every session.

At BookNook, we're passionate about providing high quality, effective educational tutoring support for school districts, and our tutors are a vital part of our success in that mission.

Each Tutor Spotlight offers a glimpse into the dedication and expertise of one of our talented tutors, providing school districts the assurance to confidently choose BookNook for their students.

Meet Renee



Education and Experience

Renee has been a BookNook tutor since 2024. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts and a Master's degree in Educational Theatre. She has taught English as a Second Language in South Korea and served as a Theatre Director and classroom educator for students from Kindergarten through 12th grade.

Highlights



Can you share a success story?

I remember a student who clearly wanted to try but just needed a little extra encouragement to believe in herself. Once she had that support, she truly began to thrive. Watching her transformation was incredibly meaningful—and a powerful reminder of the impact we can have as tutors.



What's your favorite part of working with the same students over time?

Building relationships. When you see the same student or group regularly you get to know them more specifically—where their strengths are, where they need a little push, and how far you can or can't push. It gives students a space where they feel safe and encouraged.



How would you describe your tutoring style?

I try to bring an energetic, lighthearted approach to every session. My goal is to make learning fun and not intimidating. I use a lot of encouragement, I want them to know they're in a safe space and that I'm always rooting for them.



What advice would you give to a new tutor?

Most importantly, just show them love and kindness. You never know what a student is walking in with on any given day, and if they're having a rough time, don't take it personally—you really can turn a student's day around just by being there for them.

Meet Karen



Education and Experience

Karen began tutoring for BookNook in June, 2024. She holds a Bachelor's degree in French and Psychology with a minor in Education, and a Master's degree in Childhood Education. She brings over 15 years of teaching experience supporting students located across the United States as well as Abu Dhabi, Russia, Hong Kong, and China.

Highlights



Can you share a success story?

One that comes to mind is helping an older student with rhyming, which can be a tough concept at any age. She was struggling, so I brought in some silliness—rhyming with her name and switching out consonants. It was fun, effective, and helped the concept click for her.



What's your favorite part of working with the same students over time?

I believe it's important to show students that learning can be enjoyable. I always start by asking how they feel about the topic—like adding three-digit numbers. Most of the time, they say something like, "Not so good." But by the end of the week, that often changes to, "Oh yeah, this is easy—what's next?"



How would you describe your tutoring style?

I like to keep things fun—sometimes I'll pretend I don't know how to read a word and ask for help. Students love to show what they know. I bring a lot of energy, vary my voice, and use little surprises—like pretending to toss them a chocolate coin when they do a great job. It keeps things fun and engaging.



What advice would you give to a new tutor?

Let your personality do half the work—bring your authentic self to each session and don't be too rigid. Students respond best when you connect with them naturally. Let your true personality shine and focus on building genuine rapport.

Meet Nicole



Education and Experience

Nicole began tutor for BookNook in 2025. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Latin American/Women's Studies and a Master's degree in Bilingual Early Childhood Education. She has over 15 years of experience teaching in grades four and five, served as a Literacy Coach supporting K–2 teachers, and has eight years of experience as an online ESL tutor.

Highlights



Can you share a success story?

I remember working with a shy student who was frequently absent at first. Despite the challenges, I made a point to consistently ask about her day and interests, weaving those details into the lesson whenever possible. Over time, she grew more confident and began to genuinely enjoy our sessions.



What's your favorite part of working with the same students over time?

I strive to create a warm, inclusive environment by promoting turn-taking and consistently using each student's name to help them feel recognized and valued. I smile often and use a positive tone to foster a sense of safety and encouragement.



How would you describe your tutoring style?

My style is to mix direct instruction with chances for students to apply what they're learning. I try to keep things engaging by using real-life examples, props, and interactive elements whenever possible. It's all about finding that balance between structure and hands-on learning.



What advice would you share with a new tutor?

My biggest tip is get to know your students. Learn their names, pay attention to their strengths, and make the lessons fun!

Meet Laura



Education and Experience

With over 20 years of experience in early childhood and elementary education, Laura began her career as a preschool teaching assistant and advanced to lead teacher. She has taught in a variety of learning environments, bringing adaptability and a depth of expertise to her work with students. Laura has been a BookNook tutor since 2022.

Highlights



Can you share a success story?

I'll never forget a quiet, shy student I worked with who had been struggling with decoding. After about six sessions together, I started to see her grow more confident and comfortable. By our final session, she had made so much progress that she volunteered to read aloud—it was such a great moment!



What's your favorite part of working with the same students over time?

I really value the consistency of working with students regularly. It gives me the chance to build strong rapport and learn each child's unique learning style. I ask questions and take time to get to know them personally, which helps me tailor my teaching to support their growth more effectively.



How would you describe your tutoring style?

My tutoring style is laid-back and fun, but still focused on hitting those reading goals. I believe a comfortable, engaging atmosphere encourages students to participate, support one another, and ask questions without hesitation. The small group setting makes it easier for each student to feel seen and supported.



What advice would you give to a new tutor?

Just be yourself. Embrace all the differences each student brings—because they will get there. Even a short amount of time can make a big impact, so be that positive difference in their day and *"Make their day great!"*

Meet Brenda



Education and Experience

Brenda holds a Bachelor's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies and a Master's degree in Early Childhood Education. She brings over 27 years of experience in classroom teaching and eight years of experience as an online tutor. Brenda has been tutoring for BookNook since 2023.

Highlights



Can you share a success story?

In class, we read a story that mentioned the sun, and I shared that it's a star—the students were all so surprised! Later, during a solar system story, one student proudly shared that fact with a classmate who'd missed the first lesson. It was wonderful to see them retain and apply new knowledge.



What's your favorite part of working with the same students over time?

In our small group sessions, we really start to feel like a little family. Students notice when someone's missing and ask about them. One student had a dog named Waffles, and every session, someone would ask, "Where's Waffles today?" It's those moments that build connection and make learning feel special.



How would you describe your tutoring style?

Before learning even begins, I start to build a connection—get them to talk, care about each other, and feel comfortable. When that happens, you see them light up. That sense of belonging makes the learning even stronger. They listen more, participate more, and really engage.



What advice would you give to a new tutor?

Come prepared with extensions and backup activities to keep students engaged. Whether it's using play money, a pom-pom, or something else creative, having a variety of tools ready can really help hold their attention.

Meet Christine



Education and Experience

Christine has been tutoring virtually since 2019 and joined BookNook in 2022. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Communication and a Juris Doctorate. After her law career, Christine transitioned to tutoring, specializing in supporting ESL and international students online, bringing cultural awareness and tailored support to her sessions.

Highlights



Can you share a success story?

One of my biggest success stories was a student who never spoke or participated during our sessions. For weeks, I greeted him warmly, asked how he was, and offered him a turn to read—even though he never responded. After about three weeks, without prompting, he volunteered to read and began answering questions. It truly warmed my heart.



What's your favorite part of working with the same students over time?

Consistency helps me build trust with my students and create a safe, comfortable space for learning. I want them to know it's okay to make mistakes—they're here to learn, not to be perfect. By getting to know their interests, I can make learning more meaningful and engaging.



How would you describe your tutoring style?

My tutoring style is conversational and engaging. I ask questions, encourage students to share examples, and foster peer-to-peer support. In small groups, I use students' names to maintain focus, provide redirection when needed, and ensure everyone remains actively involved and connected.



What advice would you give to a new tutor?

Just relax and have fun with the kids! The more comfortable and engaged you are, the more your students will be too. Get to know them, enjoy the moments, and make it a fun experience for everyone.

Meet Stacie



Education and Experience

Stacie holds a Bachelor's degree in Athletic Training and a Master's degree in Education, Human Performance & Sport Science. After many years as a personal trainer, she began working as an assistant Pre-K teacher. Following seven years of teaching experience Stacie became a virtual tutor and has been tutoring with BookNook since 2023.

Highlights



Can you share a success story?

The best part is when they say, "Oh, I get it!" and even start saying they enjoy the subject. Hearing "I love math" or "I love reading" from a student who once didn't is the most rewarding part of what I do.



How do you develop rapport with students in your virtual classroom?

I always start by asking students about their interests—whether it's sports, art, music, or how they spend their weekends. When I connect the lesson to something they enjoy, their ears perk up and I have their attention. Engaging them through what they love makes it easier to keep them focused and involved in learning.



How would you describe your tutoring style?

I adapt my tutoring style to meet the student's needs. Sometimes students struggle at first, and I have to try a different approach—but that's part of the challenge and the joy. Every child learns at their own pace and in their own way, so I adjust my teaching to fit their individual needs.



What advice would you give to a new tutor?

One piece of advice I'd share is to never give up on your students. Even during the tough moments, stay patient and keep supporting them. Show them love and encouragement—sometimes that's exactly what they need to keep going and succeed.

Meet Tanisha



Education and Experience

Tanisha holds a Bachelor's degree in Family and Consumer Science, plus Master's degrees in Early Childhood Education and Special Education. With over 25 years of teaching, she brings valuable expertise including valuable expertise in supporting all types of learners. Tanisha has been a BookNook tutor since 2022.

Highlights



Can you share a success story?

I worked with a student, who told me, "This is a waste of time. I can't do this." But once I understood her needs and met her where she was, things changed. I adjusted my approach, and she soon became engaged and ready to participate. It was wonderful to see her venture out and succeed.



What's your favorite part of working with the same students over time?

The biggest impact always comes from building a strong relationship with my students. Once we form a bond and they know I care, they want to learn and make me proud. That connection makes all the difference—it's when I see that light bulb moment and their eagerness to participate, even sharing what we're working on with their families at home.



How would you describe your tutoring style?

I meet students where they are, focusing on what they can do and praising their progress. If they struggle with basics—like certain sounds in a rhyming lesson—I go back to build those skills first. Staying aware of their needs helps reduce frustration and keeps learning positive.



What advice would you give to a new tutor?

My advice is to focus on building a relationship with your students. Don't judge a session too quickly—sometimes it takes more than one meeting to connect. Even if you only have a few minutes to get to know them at first, keep trying. Don't give up—persistence is key to helping students feel comfortable and succeed.