

Comparison of Tutoring, Software and Tuition Programs

Advice for parents: Any help for a child in Mathematics is better than nothing. However, programs without voice instruction are no better than a textbook and programs without written worksheets are even less helpful.

Type of Program	Maths POWER – Back To The Future Education Computer Tutoring / Teaching Programs	On-line and Internet Access-only programs	Face-to-Face Tutoring One-on-one tutors or group tuition centres	Other computer tutoring programs
Accurate Sequencing of lessons by teachers to ensure students do the lessons in correct order.	Yes All lessons sequenced in particular order. The student cannot move on until 90% or more understanding of pre-requisite lesson is achieved.	No Students can choose any lesson they like with no assessment of where they are up to.	N/A	No The student can click on anything at anytime which can cause lack of confidence, focus and sense of achievement.
Full verbal instruction by qualified teacher with Graphics on every lesson.	Yes Experienced, qualified teachers with engaging voices used on every lesson.	Very Few Be sure to check, as this feature is essential. Some claim to have 'lessons' that are no more than drill games or exercises with just a written text example only.	Often not Tutors may not be teachers.	Very few Most have none and some have a limited number (10-15%) of lessons with audio instruction. Some claim to have 'lessons' that are no more than exercises with a written text example.
Access to free phone tutor/teacher support	Yes	No	No	Some
Lifetime Money Back Guarantee	Yes Just use 2-3 times per week.	No	No	No
Essential worksheets with every lesson for child to demonstrate full understanding and correct setting out for complete learning to be achieved.	Yes Every lesson. As well as interactivity.	Some do, some don't. Be sure to check, as these are essential.	Usually	Very Few. Most don't include written work sheets as part of their learning strategies. Interactive-only means the child is prompted and not doing it by themselves. Ask your teacher about the importance of written work to maximise learning. Your child needs to do written working out in exams.
Payment Plan	Yes Interest-free over 5 months. Longer terms available if needed.	Some do, some don't.	Not all. (Usually by term)	Yes (at 19% - 24% interest) over 3-4 years. Or 4 payments via credit card @\$1000+ per payment

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Method of marketing	<p>Confidential phone and internet contact only.</p> <p>No “trap marketing” or cold calling. Full details including prices, demonstration lessons and recommendations are available on the Maths POWER website.</p>	<p>Varies</p> <p>On-line programs make it too tempting for students to surf the net and be distracted.</p> <p>Note: Online programs require broadband internet connection. May add to download quota and add to cost. Download times could be time-consuming.</p>	<p>Centre or In-home appointments and assessments.</p> <p>Full term or full year commitment required.</p>	<p>Sold via In-home presentation or assessment, generally by commission only sales people.</p> <p>Refined sales techniques are used to talk parents into spending thousands of dollars on over-priced programs.</p>
Cost of programs	<p>Family Registration: = ONE-off \$55</p> <p>Infants/Prim: One-Year prog = \$199</p> <p>High School: TWO-Year prog = \$399</p> <p>(also family discounts)</p>	<p>\$99 - \$300 / Year ONE CHILD ONLY!</p> <p>Subscription period only. You do not get to own and keep program for future reference.</p> <p>Additional children extra.</p> <p>Eg. 3 children: \$249 - \$469</p> <p>N.B. The cheaper ones here have no 'lessons' as such i.e. no voice instructions nor worksheets (Despite claims of 'lessons').</p>	<p>\$350 - \$1,200 per term per subject.</p> <p>\$1400 - \$4,800 per year</p>	<p>Infant/Primary: -\$3,500-\$6,000 up front or financed</p> <p>High School: -\$459-\$6,000 up front or financed</p> <p>K-12 program: -Up to \$10 000 up front or financed</p> <p>(Generally \$3,500 - \$8,800 up-front or financed at 19%-24% interest)</p> <p>Ask about specific pricing prior to agreeing to appointment.</p>
Motivational Prizes, Certificates and Rewards	<p>Yes</p> <p>(for primary)</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>

- **Warning: Be wary of maths companies that do not display prices and working samples on their web sites.**
- **Back to the Future Education is an Australian Government Endorsed Supplier.**