

KEEP Teaching

by Diane Trautman

I recently completed a course that I had approached with some apprehension. Even though I felt comfortable with my basic skills, I was concerned that I might not have the physical or mental agility to make the grade.

Once I had successfully completed this intensive weekend training, I sat down to fill out the customer survey. As I reflected on the qualities the instructors brought to the course, I realized that they are the very same qualities good tutors bring to each student: Knowledge, Experience, Enthusiasm, Positive guidance (let's call it the KEEP approach). The instructors were knowledgeable about the subject. With years of experience, they were able to convey information clearly and effectively and anticipate students' needs and possible pitfalls. Their enthusiasm engaged and energized the class. Finally, their positive guidance gave each student the confidence needed to work until we reached an acceptable level of proficiency.

I emerged from the training with improved knowledge, better skills, greater respect for the activity and a more expansive view of myself. These are the very benefits StudyPros strives to bring to each tutee. At StudyPros, we say that the right teacher can make all the difference. I had the pleasure of working with two "right" teachers and that experience has definitely changed my perspective.

So what course did I take? The basic course in the California Motorcyclist Safety Program offered by Nelson Motorcycle Training Center, Inc. For those of you who ride motorcycles or are contemplating the possibility, this training is well worth the time, energy and cost. (Instructors Rick Ford and Kelly Touchstone are outstanding!)

I can now obtain my Class M1 license and ride my bike (okay, it's a scooter) with more confidence. I also see an option that I never before would have considered — buying a larger motorcycle. Perhaps most importantly, I've been given an opportunity to reassess my own potential. Now I'm eager to learn more because I know that I can.

Sometimes, students just need to work with a qualified instructor who can look at the student with fresh eyes and awaken them to their previously unidentified abilities and strengths. If your child seems stuck or starts to falter, getting a great tutor may do more than boost their grade. It may open them to a whole new world of possibilities.