

Summer 2011

The Virginia Home Educator

Home Educators Association of Virginia News Magazine



HOME EDUCATION:

You Can Do It!

The Homeschool Classroom
How Dads Help Homeschools
The Hidden Power of God in Parenting



Convention
Information
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FROM THE EDITOR

Mary Kay Smith

Last summer my family led a children's and youth program for missionary kids in Japan's famous mountain retreat, Karuizawa. We had an afternoon off work and our host drove us to do some souvenir shopping at the charming town square on the street affectionately known as the "Ginza"—the name borrowed from Tokyo's high-end shopping thoroughfare. We had walked to the Ginza from the language school where we were staying one other time, so we knew it was only a short way back, and thought we could easily find our way.

To our homeschooling family, the Ginza was a whole fantastic Japanese field trip in itself. We trailed through shops selling traditional clothing and wooden kokeshi dolls. In the antique store we browsed through hand-sewn rice-paper books, old china, and World War II Imperial Japanese Navy Air Force uniforms. In the cat store we learned the reason the Maneki Neko cats from the Edo era have one paw up (a beckoning gesture depicting wishes for prosperity). At the modern ice-cream café, we were fascinated with the flavor options of corn soup, bean, sweet potato, black sesame, or cherry blossom. We also saw the Japanese version of KFC, with a large statue of the colonel wearing a kimono! We had a great time exploring and learning!

Well, the girls and I had to return early to attend a meeting, so our party split up. We set forth up and down the Ginza, trying side roads, turning around, starting again, and trying other side roads...but never finding our way. Finally, with sore feet and an aching back, and with the meeting already well under way without us, I said, "That's it! I'm going back to the square and just finding a seat. Someone will eventually notice we're missing, come along and spot us, and lead us home."

The "someone" was my son, Jason. He and my husband strolled across our path, and Jason pointed to a street we had walked past four times. "That's our road right there, don't you remember?" he asked. "If you look up at the top, you can see the tea room where we have to turn right in order to get back." Sure enough, there it was. The problem was, it didn't look the same from this angle. But my son, being the good Eagle Scout he is, had remembered his wilderness training and was the only one who had thought to turn around on the way down and see what the view looked like from the other direction!

I think the homeschool years can be like this. We can have wonderful learning experiences and great field trips, and then sometimes "get lost" and become tired trying to find our way through the rest of the year or to plan for the next one.

It helps to turn around. Look at the view from the other direction. Notice where you have been and how far you have come. And most importantly, don't walk alone. Find someone who can point out a different perspective and get you back on the right road. That person might be in your support group or someone you will meet at the HEAV convention. The convention theme this year is "Home Education: You Can Do It!" And it is true—with God's help and the help of those around you. ☺

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The Virginia Home Educator

Home Educators Association of Virginia News Magazine

The purpose of the *Virginia Home Educator* is to provide information, resources, and encouragement to Virginia homeschool parents. The views expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect those of the Home Educators Association of Virginia. All Scripture quotations are from the King James Version unless otherwise noted.

The *Virginia Home Educator* is sent quarterly to Virginia's homeschooling families without charge. To receive a free subscription, sign up at www.heav.org.

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Submission Deadlines:

- Fall 2012 (Issue 3)—June 15
- Winter 2011 (Issue 4)—September 15
- Spring 2012 (Issue 1)—December 1
- Summer 2012 (Issue 2)—March 15

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MORE ON PAGE 11!
WWW.HEAV.ORG



Letters

APPRECIATION FOR HOMESCHOOLING

I have three young grandchildren in Virginia who are being homeschooled. Their education levels are far superior to their ages. They read books with passion; they are strong in math, science, and history; and these children are perfectly balanced. By the time they reach high school graduation age, I can't begin to imagine where their learning levels will be. If knowledge is power, then these children must be given enormous attention, for they will be tremendously powerful as adults. I am thoroughly impressed by homeschooling, and I believe that tomorrow's leaders are being homeschooled today.

Robert Monk
Santa Rosa Beach, Florida

TESTING

We are HEAV and HSLDA members, and have been homeschooling for fourteen years in different states across the United States. My husband is active-duty military. We moved to Virginia in January, and sent our paperwork to Prince William County in February. We will move again in June, as my husband is being reassigned. Are we still required under Virginia law to have our children tested?

Thanks in advance for your help.
Stephanie Johnson

From Yvonne: No you are not required to send test results to your superintendent if you will not be living in your current county on August 1. As a courtesy, you may want to contact the superintendent's office to let him know you will be moving, but the law does not require you to do so.

Best wishes to you and your family as you serve our country!
We appreciate you! ☺

CHECK OUT MORE HOMESCHOOL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS AT WWW.BLOG.HEAV.ORG!

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VIRGINIA KIDS DID IT!



Congratulations to eight-year-old **Kayleigh Crimmins** (Chesapeake) who was one of eight children selected as this year's "Kids of the Year" in the February issue of *Parenting School Years*. Kayleigh was recognized for her philanthropic work with police K-9s.

After a field trip to watch her Chesapeake police-officer father train with his K-9s, Kayleigh did some research on police dogs. She became concerned because not all police departments could afford to outfit their dogs with bullet-proof vests, so some K-9s had them while others did not. At a suggestion from her aunt, Kayleigh decided to sell some of her toys to raise funds for more of these vests, and has been busy raising money ever since. Her non-profit "Kids for K9's" was born. With the help of her mother, Kayleigh has also designed T-shirts and police stickers to raise funds, and has held annual yard sales to secure the nearly \$702 that is required to purchase each vest. Kayleigh has also expanded her donations to include electronic door-poppers and heat alarms for police departments nationwide.

To donate money for K-9 vests and other police department needs, visit www.Kidsfork9s.com.



(From left to right) Front row: Becky Thompson, Laura Redman, Clisholm Wilhelm, and Maria Brooks. Back row: Mentor Joseph Miller, Mentor Jeff Miller, James Miller, Wiley Wilhelm, and Coach Jon Thompson.

Congratulations to the **Twisted Botz**, a homeschool robotics team from Gloucester and Williamsburg, who recently returned from the VEX Robotics World Championship held in Orlando at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex. Competing against more than 400 teams from 16 countries—more than 10,000 participants in all—the Twisted Botz advanced to the quarter finals, and also won the prestigious divisional Community Award, which is awarded to only four teams in the entire World Championship. The Twisted Botz also attended 8 regional competitions and won 14 other awards this season. For more information, visit www.twistedbotz.org.

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Freedom Watch

AUTISM COVERAGE BILL RETURNED TO GOVERNOR

Legislators held a one-day “reconvened session” early in April to vote on the governor’s vetoes and amendments to legislation they had passed during the 2011 session. Among the amended bills were HB 2467 (Greason, R-Loudoun) and SB 1062 (Howell, D-Fairfax) that required health insurers to pay up to \$35,000 per year for the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorder for children ages two to six.

The new law would apply to businesses with more than fifty employees and to all state government employees. It does not require individual or small-group insurance policies to cover treatment for autistic children.

Parent advocates, including some parents who homeschool their autistic children, have fought for more than eleven years to pass legislation that would require large-group insurance companies to pro-

vide coverage for early intervention treatment for autistic children.

Both the Senate and House approved the governor’s amendments that would require licensure of therapists, prior authorization from insurance companies, and independent reviews of the child’s treatment plan. They rejected the governor’s amendment that would invalidate the law if a court strikes down the \$35,000 cap on benefits.

The \$35,000 cap satisfied business and insurance lobbies that strongly opposed the bill. The parents of autistic children complained the cap could interrupt much-needed treatment during the early formative years.

The bill now goes back to Governor McDonnell, who could veto the measure. According to the governor’s staff, however, we can expect that he will allow the bill to become law. ☺

COMING TO VIRGINIA

SUMMER HOMESCHOOL SUCCESS SEMINARS

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Contact: Ann Hoopsick, leader@tcheofva.org

- **How to Begin Homeschooling: What You Really Need to Know** ~ Yvonne Bunn ■ July 18 ■ 6 to 9 p.m.

Yvonne will present information on how to begin homeschooling for the Tri-Cities Home Educators. You’ll learn homeschooling basics including how to choose curriculum, how to comply with the law, and what is required for testing. She’ll also talk about teaching several levels at once, how to get the support you need, where to find the best resources, some things to avoid, and some secrets of success.

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www.heav.org/events

Costs vary, so please visit our website or call the office for details and reservations.

- **How to Begin Homeschooling: What You Really Need to Know** ~ Yvonne Bunn ■ August 4 ■ 1 to 5 p.m.

See course description above.

- **High School at Home: You Can do It!** ~ Yvonne Bunn August 18 ■ 1 to 4 p.m.

Yvonne will cover what subjects to include during the high school years, how to teach courses like chemistry labs or calculus, and how to develop a transcript, assign credits, and compute a GPA. She’ll also talk about AP courses, PSATs, SATs, and ACTs, and about sports and extracurricular activities.

GENERAL VIRGINIA FIELD TRIPS

Check out www.virginia.org for lists of events and places to visit this summer—and throughout the year. You can search by date, event type, or region. You can also get some field-trip ideas if you search for “More Articles About Virginia” Especially notice “59 Cool Places for Kids.”

Another website with lots of tourism and activity ideas is www.funforkids.virginia.cc.

And be sure to sign up for HEAV’s free weekly e-mail *Update* at www.heav.org, which regularly features field-trip opportunities! ☺



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FROM THE CONVENTION DIRECTOR *Florence Feldman*

With the convention just weeks away, here's a preview of what we have planned and a little behind-the-scenes look at the speaker and workshop selection process.

OUR FOCUS

When choosing speakers, our five-member committee looks for experienced, mature, biblically sound speakers who can give you the information you need and who understand the challenges you face.

We also depend on your input: Last year's convention survey results showed a strong desire for worldview topics, as well as for nuts-and-bolts how-tos. With this in mind, we looked for speakers with time-tested, practical messages on a wide variety of topics, including teaching, finances, marriage, raising boys, learning styles, family roles, choosing curriculum, scheduling, and biblical worldview.

OUR SPEAKERS

All our speakers have a wealth of experience and knowledge. Many are published authors who have been in the "trenches" for years. Yet what I loved about the speakers I spoke with—and what I believe you'll love—is they are real, down-to-earth people who are coming because they want to serve and help equip you.

I first met one of our speakers at a writers' conference. It was late one evening, and I couldn't get my computer to work. Two men sitting at a table in front of the coffee shop helped me. In the course of our conversation, I discovered one of the men was **Dr. Richard Swenson**. I was struck by how approachable and down-to-earth this man was. He is an internationally recognized futurist, researcher, author, and educator, yet he came across not as a superstar, but as a godly man who cared. As we talked, I realized

he offered an even-handed assessment of what is happening in our society and sound suggestions for how to maintain balance during times like these—he was a man who knew how bad it is out there, yet at the same time says he sleeps well at night and has no concern for his grandchildren's future, because he knows God is sovereign.

Needless to say, when his name later came up as a possible speaker, I was excited to call him and find out if he could come and share at our convention.

I haven't had the privilege of meeting all our speakers, but listening to and talking with many of them has me very excited about what they have to offer. We are blessed to have **Chuck Bentley**, the head of Crown Financial Ministries, with us. He'll be offering solid financial principles and to help us survive in today's economy.

Mary Schofield, an attorney and the author of the *High School Handbook*, will share on organization, high school, junior high, and more, while **Susan Chrisman**, a pioneer homeschooler from Oklahoma and the founder of Lifelong Learners, will cover planning, habit training, and preschool and kindergarten education. **Joyce Herzog**, who has twenty-five years of experience teaching the learning disabled, will offer a look at learning styles, curriculum, special needs, and grammar.

OUR GOAL

You Can Do It! is the theme of this year's convention—and we are here to help. We understand the challenges and complexities of educating children at home, and have carefully planned the convention to offer real, lasting help and sincere encouragement. I look forward to seeing you there! ☺

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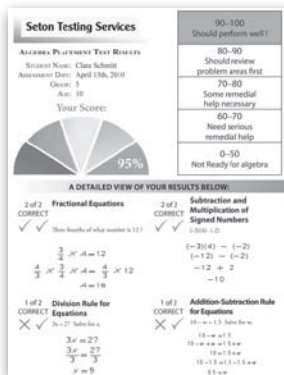
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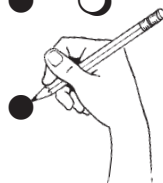
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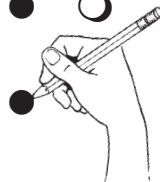
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"... I am prompted to write you because a few days ago something we were doing reminded Daniel of anatomy camp and he said suddenly, with great feeling, "I had so much fun at anatomy camp. That was such a good time." It made me very thankful for the good experience you put together for the campers. Thank you for your hard work and organization ..."

God bless you, Jenni, Eagle River, AK

"Thank you! Victoria has gone from a young lady who hated science and dreaded the beginning of the year ... to sharing interesting tidbits about biology with us at the dinner table ... to VOLUNTARILY writing 2700 words about biology that were "laptop worthy". You are an outstanding teacher. Victoria sends you a huge thank you as well. :)"

Sherry, Mercer, PA

"Greg is a trustworthy and gifted teacher, and I believe wholeheartedly that Greg's passion and enthusiasm for this subject matter will inspire and motivate a generation of students to make an impact for Christ in the fields of science and medicine for 'such a time as this'."

Jodi Quint, Nashville, TN



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HOME EDUCATION:

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**VIRGINIA HOMESCHOOL CONVENTION
JUNE 9-11, 2011**

It is ALWAYS wonderful to go to Richmond and be encouraged! The entire weekend is always so well-organized, which allows me to make the most of my time there—fitting in all the curriculum research/shopping I need to do as well as attending sessions.

THANK YOU!!! ~ Homeschool Mom

Tell Your Friends!

Know a family thinking about homeschooling—or parents of preschoolers? Invite them to check out the FREE how-to-begin-homeschooling sessions on Thursday, and the FREE admittance to the entire convention for qualified parents of preschoolers.* Even if they choose not to homeschool, the educational and family-life resources and encouragement could change their lives! *See details at www.heav.org.

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~ Homeschool Mom

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lessons. Cost: \$99, or only \$79 if you attend any other portion of the convention. Spouses attend for free!

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All skill levels are welcome!
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CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

A children's program is available for ages 4-12. (Space is limited.)

SCHOLARSHIPS ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE!

If you, or anyone you know, could use a partial or full scholarship to attend the convention, please give our office a call at 804-278-9200, send an e-mail to registration@heav.org, or talk with someone at registration when you come to the convention. Please don't let money keep you away!

VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL NEEDED

Have fun and help other homeschool families! The HEAV convention is supported by volunteers—more than 450 of them—and numerous positions are still available. As a "thank you," volunteers get to shop early in the Used Curriculum Sale. Sign up online, or contact volunteers@heav.org or 804-278-9200.

Help get the word out..

FOR THIS ONCE-A-YEAR EVENT!

We absolutely need YOUR help! YOU are our eyes, hands, and feet. Please let your friends, church, MOPS group, local media, and online communities know about the convention. Resources are available online at www.heav.org/convention/promo.

Workshop Schedule-at-a-Glance



Thursday, June 9	Room	Friday, June 10 Keynote A 8:30 - 10:00 AM	Friday Session 1 10:30 - 11:30 AM	Friday Session 2 1:30 - 2:30 PM	Friday Session 3 3:00 - 4:00 PM
<p>FREE BEGINNER SESSIONS ROOMS E-10 A-D</p> <p>2:00-3:00 PM Introduction to Homeschooling <i>Yvonne Bunn</i></p> <p>3:30-4:30 PM How to Begin <i>Yvonne Bunn</i></p> <p>5:00-6:00 PM Know the Law: Notifying and Testing Demystified <i>Yvonne Bunn</i></p> <p>6:30-7:30 PM Choosing and Using Curriculum <i>Joyce Herzog</i></p> <p>~</p> <p>SPECIAL CONVENTION FEATURES</p> <p>ROOM E-11 A-C 2:30-5:30 PM Make, Manage, and Fulfill: Implementing God's Plan for Your Finances <i>Chuck Bentley</i></p> <p>ROOM E-21 A-C 2:30-3:30 PM How Big Is God? <i>Diego Rodriguez</i></p> <p>ROOM B-10 2:30-3:30 PM Media Choices: Convictions or Compromise? <i>Phillip Telfer</i></p> <p>ROOM B-10 4:00-5:30 PM The High School Transcript: It's Easier Than You Think <i>Janice Campbell</i></p> <p>ROOM E-21 A-C 4:30-7:30 PM Focus on the Family's The Truth Project* <i>Stan John</i></p> <p>*Additional \$79 fee</p>	B-10 Ballroom Building	<p>KEYNOTE A B-21 A/B/C Ballroom Building</p> <p>Margin, Balance, and Priorities: Making Space in Our Lives for the Things That Matter Most <i>Dr. Richard Swenson</i></p>	Raising Cain Without Killing Abel—A Look at Sibling Rivalry <i>Rick Boyer</i>	Vision and Victory for Youth <i>Rick Boyer</i>	How to Be More Motivated Than an Olympic Champion <i>Jamie Lash</i>
	B-15 A Ballroom Building		Anger: The Destroyer <i>Dr. S.M. Davis</i>	Making It All Happen <i>Marilyn Boyer</i>	Junior High Needs <i>Mary Schofield</i>
	B-15 B Ballroom Building		The Power of a Father's Blessing <i>Mark Holden</i>	Decisions That Keep You Away from Home <i>Mark Holden</i>	Teaching Mathematics as a Language: What Gets Lost in the Translation? ~ <i>Tom Clark</i>
	B-15 C Ballroom Building		A Home Educator's Guide to Scheduling and Planning <i>Susan Chrisman</i>	Preschool and Kindergarten Education at Home - Part 1 <i>Susan Chrisman</i>	Preschool and Kindergarten Education at Home - Part 2 <i>Susan Chrisman</i>
	B-16 Ballroom Building		The Unified Approach to Teaching ~ <i>Geography Matters</i>	Teach Your Child Music <i>Ebaru Publishing</i>	Secrets of Great Spelling <i>Latin Road/Phonics Road</i>
	B-17 Ballroom Building		Rosetta Stone Homeschool Foreign Language Curriculum <i>Rosetta Stone</i>	"Teaching" the Junior High & High School Sciences at Home ~ <i>Apologia</i>	Raising Accountable Kids One Step at a Time <i>Accountable Kids</i>
	B-18 Ballroom Building		Saxon and Singapore: Understanding Two Top Homeschool Math Approaches <i>Saxon Homeschool</i>	Effective Computer-Assisted Foreign Language Learning ~ <i>Tell Me More Homeschool Foreign Languages</i>	Combining Classical Education, Charlotte Mason, and Unit Studies with a Christian Perspective ~ <i>My Father's World</i>
	B-19 Ballroom Building		Changing Lives with Words <i>Dynamic Literacy</i>	The Classical Education Journey <i>Classical Conversations</i>	Excite, Unite, Delight <i>Joyceherzog.com</i>
	B-21 A/B/C Ballroom Building		KEYNOTE A B-21 A/B/C Ballroom Building	In the Beginning, God Created; In the End, Sovereignty Wins <i>Dr. Richard Swenson</i>	
	E-10 A/B Exhibit Hall Building		Is America One Nation Under God? <i>Rick Green</i>	Regaining Focus in an Age of Digital Distractions <i>Phillip Telfer</i>	Handle with Care: Family Conflicts over Media & Entertainment ~ <i>Phillip Telfer</i>
	E-10 C/D Exhibit Hall Building		Raising Lovely Daughters in Today's World <i>Joyce Burges</i>	Making Marriage Work While Homeschooling <i>Eric Burges</i>	Restoring America's Constitution <i>Rick Green</i>
	E-11 A Exhibit Hall Building		Secrets Teachers Never Tell <i>Joyce Herzog</i>	Simplified Grammar <i>Joyce Herzog</i>	Learning in Spite of Labels <i>Joyce Herzog</i>
	E-11 B Exhibit Hall Building		What Wives Wish Their Husbands Knew About Homeschooling ~ <i>Scott Somerville</i>	Beyond Books: Variety & Customization in Our Teaching Methods ~ <i>Marcia Somerville</i>	Classical Astronomy <i>Diego Rodriguez</i>
	E-11 C Exhibit Hall Building		Evaluate Student Writing: You Don't Have to Be an English Major! ~ <i>Janice Campbell</i>	Budget Is a Dirty Word <i>Carol Topp</i>	Help! My Homeschool Group Is Growing ~ <i>Carol Topp</i>
E-21 A Exhibit Hall Building	Benefits of Infant and Toddler Training <i>Kerin Morgan</i>	Homeschooling Through High School <i>Janice Campbell</i>	Straight Talk About College: What You Need to Know Before You Go and After You Get There ~ <i>Jonathan Brush</i>		
E-21 B/C Exhibit Hall Building	Five Reasons Moms Quit School—and How You Can Keep from Becoming a Dropout ~ <i>Tracy Klicka</i>	Three Key Elements of Successful Parenting <i>Dr. S.M. Davis</i>	Order in the House! Peace Vs. Chaos in the Home <i>Tracy Klicka</i>		
E-22 A Exhibit Hall Building	Strategies for Teaching Children with Communication Challenges ~ <i>Judi Munday</i>	Developing Independent Learners <i>Judi Munday</i>	What's Most Important for Your Child? <i>Gospel for Asia</i>		
E-23 A/B Exhibit Hall Building	Activities for Families Learning Together ~ <i>Carlita Boyles</i>	Teach When Your Child Is Ready to Learn ~ <i>Carlita Boyles</i>	Understanding Teaching and Learning Styles ~ <i>Debbie Strayer</i>		
E-24 A Exhibit Hall Building	Well-Planned Day - Yes, It Is Possible ~ <i>Home Educating Family Publishing</i>	Using Sequential Spelling in Your Homeschool <i>Wave 3 Learning, Inc.</i>	Experience Excellence in Writing ~ <i>Institute for Excellence in Writing</i>		
E-24 B Exhibit Hall Building	Curriculum for Hands-On, Creative, and Gifted Learners <i>Moving Beyond the Page</i>	Do I Have to Take U.S. Government? <i>Zeezok Publishing</i>	Planning Field Trips on a Budget! ~ <i>Kids Love Travel Educational Resources</i>		
THURSDAY EXHIBIT HALL HOURS 5 PM - 9 PM	E-25 A/B Exhibit Hall Building	FRIDAY EXHIBIT HALL HOURS 9:30 AM - 8 PM	<p>11:30 AM - 1:15 PM Support Group Leadership Luncheon Top 10 Leadership Tips ~ <i>Mary Schofield</i></p>		



Dr. Richard Swenson



Chuck Bentley



Dr. Mike Farris



Susan Chrisman



Rick Green



Joyce Herzog



Mary Schofield



Eric & Joyce Burges

Friday Keynote B 4:30 – 6:30 PM	Room	Saturday, June 11 Keynote C 8:30 – 10:00 AM	Saturday Session 4 10:30 – 11:30 AM	Saturday Session 5 1:30 – 2:30 PM	Saturday Session 6 3:00 – 4:00 PM	
	B-10 Ballroom Building		Learned Helplessness: How to Defeat Self-Defeating Thoughts ~ <i>Jamie Lasb</i>	Using Failures as Stepping Stones for Success <i>Jamie Lasb</i>	Trusting God in Times of Trial <i>Jamie Lasb</i>	
	B-15 A Ballroom Building		Choosing Curriculum for Junior and Senior High School <i>Mary Schofield</i>	Bible and the Three Rs for Elementary-Age Children <i>Mary Schofield</i>	How to Stay Motivated, Confident, and Organized While Homeschooling ~ <i>Mary Schofield</i>	
	B-15 B Ballroom Building		A Journey of Grace: Coming Alongside Your Child in the Teen Years ~ <i>Tracy Klicka</i>	Influence of the Bible in America <i>Rick Green</i>	Passing the Torch of Freedom <i>Rick Green</i>	
	B-15 C Ballroom Building		What Is Education? <i>Susan Chrisman</i>	When Smoke Gets in Your Eyes <i>Susan Chrisman</i>	Habit Training: Key to Maintaining Your Sanity ~ <i>Susan Chrisman</i>	
	B-16 Ballroom Building		Weaving History with His-Story <i>Biblioplan for Families</i>	Planning for High School & Beyond ~ <i>University of Nebraska-Lincoln High School</i>	Now the Answer to All of Your Foreign Language Needs for All Grades! ~ <i>La Clase Divertida</i>	
	B-17 Ballroom Building		Math You See and Understand <i>Math-U-See</i>	What Do My Child's Test Scores Really Mean? <i>Sarah Olbris</i>	Dealing with the Distractibility in Your Sidetracked Child <i>Vintage Remedies</i>	
	B-18 Ballroom Building		Why Compost? Hands-On Learning, Science Lessons, and More! ~ <i>Biome in a Box</i>	Home School Astronomy Presentation <i>Home School Astronomy</i>	Winning the Math Battle with RightStart Mathematics Games <i>RightStart Mathematics</i>	
	B-19 Ballroom Building		Fun Activities for Foreign Language <i>Bilingual Books, Inc.</i>	The Struggling Reader! Am I Emphasizing the Right Things? <i>The Struggling Reader</i>	Raising Kids Who Love to Learn <i>Sonlight Curriculum</i>	
	B-21 A/B/C Ballroom Building	KEYNOTE C B-21 A/B/C Ballroom Building	The Homeschooling Father <i>Dr. Michael Farris</i>	3:30 PM – 5:30 PM Class of 2011 Graduation Ceremony <i>Walk Worthby ~ Dr. Michael Farris</i>		
KEYNOTE B B-21 A/B/C Ballroom Building	E-10 A/B Exhibit Hall Building	The Third Wave of Homeschooling Challenges <i>Dr. Michael Farris</i>	Finding Freedom in a Media-Captive Culture <i>Phillip Telfer</i>	Modern Families on a Treadmill: Run Over by High-Speed Good Intentions ~ <i>Dr. Richard Swenson</i>	Future Trends: Understanding Our Times <i>Dr. Richard Swenson</i>	
Living in God's Economy <i>Chuck Bentley</i>	E-10 C Exhibit Hall Building		The Law—Is Homeschooling Secure? ~ <i>Yvonne Bunn</i>	The Place of Discipline in Successful Child Training ~ <i>Mark Holden</i>	The Father's Role in Home Education ~ <i>Mark Holden</i>	
	E-10 D Exhibit Hall Building		Black Books Forever <i>Joyce Burges</i>	One People: The People of God <i>Eric Burges</i>	Homeschooling on a Shoestring Budget: Finding Resources to Fit Your Family ~ <i>Joyce Burges</i>	
	E-11 A Exhibit Hall Building		Home Educating with Babies and Toddlers and Loving It ~ <i>M. Boyer</i>	Rx for YOUR Special Needs <i>Joyce Herzog</i>	From Passion to Calling <i>Joyce Herzog</i>	
	E-11 B Exhibit Hall Building		Tips for Teaching a Houseful <i>Marcia Somerville</i>	How to Lead Teens <i>Scott Somerville</i>	Astronomy in the Bible <i>Diego Rodriguez</i>	
	E-11 C Exhibit Hall Building		Decoding the Classics: How to Read, Enjoy, and Teach Great Literature ~ <i>Janice Campbell</i>	Micro Business for Teenagers: Starting a Micro Business Part 1 ~ <i>Carol Topp</i>	Micro Business for Teenagers: Money and Taxes Part 2 ~ <i>Carol Topp</i>	
	E-21 A Exhibit Hall Building		The Natural Approach to Teaching Thinking ~ <i>Debbie Strayer</i>	The Power of Storytelling: Bringing Learning to Life ~ <i>Rick Boyer</i>	Vision for Struggling Moms <i>Rick Boyer</i>	
	E-21 B/C Exhibit Hall Building		How Big Is God? <i>Diego Rodriguez</i>	How to Build a Storm-Proof Marriage ~ <i>Dr. S.M. Davis</i>	How to Avoid Defrauding in Courtship or Betrothal <i>Dr. S.M. Davis</i>	
	E-22 A Exhibit Hall Building		Financial Aid: A Road Map to Get You Through the Wilderness ~ <i>Lee Andes</i>	Identifying and Avoiding the Trouble Spots in Math ~ <i>Tom Clark</i>	Using Effective Instruction and Performance-Based Teaching ~ <i>Judi Munday</i>	
	E-23 A/B Exhibit Hall Building		Encouragement and Strategies for Challenged Parents <i>Carlita Boyles</i>	The Brain, Memory, and Learning <i>Carlita Boyles</i>	Structuring the Day with Infants and Toddlers in the Home ~ <i>Kerin Morgan</i>	
	E-24 A Exhibit Hall Building		Do Not Eat the Bread of Idleness <i>Bread Beckers</i>	Preparing for Perilous Times <i>Knight's Book Knook</i>	Breathing Life into Your Language Arts ~ <i>Total Language Plus</i>	
	E-24 B Exhibit Hall Building		Introducing Analytical Grammar <i>Analytical Grammar, Inc.</i>	Ways to Help Nonstandard Learners ~ <i>BJU Press/Precept Marketing Group</i>	The Most Fascinating Discussion of Grammar in the History of the World (or Your Money Back) ~ <i>Write at Home</i>	
	E-25 A/B Exhibit Hall Building		SATURDAY EXHIBIT HALL HOURS 9:30 AM – 6:30 PM	How to Teach Kids About Managing Money (When You're Not Doing So Great Yourself) ~ <i>Carol Topp</i>	Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Essay? <i>Janice Campbell</i>	Homeschooling Boys, or "Momma, Wanna See a Snake?" <i>Janice Campbell</i>

LUNCH
11:30 AM – 1:30 PM
Single Parents' Luncheon in the Marriott Hotel Restaurant – 11:30 AM – 2:00 PM

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*UCS: Used Curriculum Sale **Does not include Children's Program

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REAL-LIFE ACTIVITIES AT SCHOOL

Sometimes I look back on my days as a teacher in the public school system. I had been taught that I could improve learning by connecting it with real life. Therefore, even though real life was outside the classroom, as often as I could (usually once or twice a quarter on a good year), I would bring in cooking supplies, and we'd have a special cooking day. It was very challenging. Even though my classroom was small (I taught children with learning disabilities, so my class usually had around twelve students), I still had to lug in all the dishes, utensils, and ingredients, not to mention the cleanup supplies.

During our cooking day, my students got to practice measuring and working with different units. However, even though I tried to have recipes with plenty of ingredients, most often each child would get to measure and add only one ingredient. I was also rather limited in what I could prepare, since we didn't have a stove or oven in the classroom but had to use a microwave or toaster oven. Still, our cooking days were great fun, and my students loved them. I also loved doing them in spite of the daunting challenges because I was able to connect math and science concepts to real life and to help my students see the importance of paying attention to details.

Once or twice over my more than ten years of teaching, I had a class that was attentive enough for me to brave bringing in a sewing machine. I let each child sew a patchwork piece and make a beanbag cushion. These became comfy seats during read-aloud times (scheduled for fifteen minutes a day). It was a nice break from sitting at desks.

There was also the school garden. The students loved planting seeds and watching the plants grow during the scheduled class visits to the garden. They weren't allowed to go into the gardens at recess, since the risk of having the gardens accidentally or purposefully damaged was too great for such free access.

There were also occasional field trips to the museum, the library, the post office, and the fire station. It would have been nice to use the travel time for teaching, but have you ever tried to have a conversation with a class in a school bus?

REAL-LIFE ACTIVITIES AT HOME

Now consider my thirteen years of schooling my own children. What a difference! Instead of once- or twice-a-year real-life activities, they are everywhere. We can do cooking projects every day, and if something flops one day, we clean it up, analyze what went wrong, and try it again the next day until we get it right. My little ones learned to identify fractions as they measured ingredients. They multiplied and divided fractions as we doubled and halved recipes. Mixed numbers and improper fractions came easily—they had already become familiar with them as they cooked. We studied yeast when we made bread and learned how it caused the bread to rise.

My children grew up watching me sew, and they started learning to sew when they sat on my lap and pushed the fabric while under my watchful supervision. And when it came to reading aloud, I wasn't restricted to fifteen minutes or even half an hour. I sometimes read aloud for hours, cuddled with them on the couch. My children have grown up with a love of great literature.

Our garden? Well, I'll admit it has had good years and bad years, but it's always been located just outside the back door, and each child has his or her own small area. They love planning their garden, choosing the seeds, planting and caring for the plants, and experiencing first-hand the applications of the Bible's great garden stories.



Convention
Speaker



The Homeschool Classroom

Carlita Boyles

One other great advantage of teaching at home is that my children work together and help each other learn. Sometimes they all learn the same lessons. At other times, the older ones help the younger. I love watching my oldest daughter teach her brother piano, and my middle daughter explain math concepts to him. And my youngest? He loves helping even younger children. You'll find him helping the preschoolers learn their Bible verses in AWANA, where he volunteers every week.

REAL LIFE IS AT HOME

If you are like me, there are days when the thought creeps in, "I wonder if my children would be better off if I put them in a school." But really, in the classroom, life is outside of where the children are learning. At home they learn in the midst of real life. Our children learn why we need to read and measure and understand fractions when we work together in the kitchen. We can teach in the car, in the store, or on the way to a field trip. I'm so thankful for the freedom to use songs and games and chores and adventures to teach my children in an environment that is full of love and support. Life is our classroom, and that is better by far! ☺



From classroom teacher to stay-at-home mom to convention speaker with her family, Carlita Boyles (co-author with her husband of Math on the Level) encourages others to look to the Lord for strength and wisdom. Her practical workshops help homeschooling mothers to enjoy their walk in Him—wherever He leads! Visit www.mathonthelevel.com for information about her curriculum.

DON'T MISS CARLITA'S CONVENTION WORKSHOPS, which include "Activities for Families Learning Together," "Teach When Your Child Is Ready to Learn," and others. View descriptions at www.heav.org.



Convention
Speaker

The Hidden Power of God in Parenting

Tracy Klicka

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Now and then I pull out an old family photo album and laugh at seeing our kids' antics when they were little. From their experiments in the kitchen to their elaborate theatrical productions, I love seeing their smiling, giggly faces and remembering their laughter.

That seems so long ago now. I sometimes miss those busy, boisterous, creative days and the smaller, more easily manageable challenges, but there is a beautiful discovery awaiting every parent when their children reach the young adult years. It's called growing up—in maturity and wisdom and fruitfulness for the Lord.

THE EXAMPLE OF BAMBOO

I love the story of the farmer and the Chinese bamboo tree, for it accurately reflects some children in their teen years. When a farmer plants a bamboo tree, though he waters and fertilizes it for a year, he sees absolutely no growth. The second year he cares for it, and he sees...no growth. The third year is the same. Once again, in the fourth year—in spite of faithful watering and fertilizing—there is, alas, no *visible* growth.

So many parents can relate. We invest in our children's hearts—giving them the Word of God, praying with and for them, and seeking to bring the gospel into their lives. Then we wait with longing to see spiritual fruit and genuine faith come forth. For many of us, what we see is similar to what that bamboo farmer sees—a tiny, little stub of a bamboo shoot, certainly not reflective of

what we've been pouring into our children!

What the bamboo farmer doesn't see all those years, though, is that the tree has been growing an extensive and powerful root system. Finally, during its fifth year, it will have an incredible growth spurt of as much as three feet a day! In just a few months' time, that bamboo tree will grow eighty to ninety feet!

*We trust in a
great God who
loves to see His
children grow.*

I confess that often in parenting my teenage children, I've been tempted to have anxiety and fear when a child questioned my authority, methods, or direction. I've gotten discouraged when I've heard words that clearly were not indicative of faith in their hearts, and I've become angry and frustrated trying to mold my children into obedience and faithfulness. Parenting alone can be especially challenging, and I so miss Christ's patient, faith-infused input as the spiritual head of our home.

IT IS NOT THE FARMER WHO MAKES THE BAMBOO GROW!

God gives us solid wisdom in His Word that *He* is the one who guides, protects, and works in hearts—mine as well as my children's! One very meaningful verse is found in Philippians 2:13, "for it is **God** who works in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure." Knowing that God is the one at work and that He can be trusted with the nurturing and shepherding of our children's souls gives parents great hope.

Does this mean, however, that as parents we just sit back and do nothing during our children's teen years because God is at work? Never! There is a beautiful balance between our faithfulness and God's work. Just as in the Christian life we are to seek after God with all our hearts and ground ourselves in His Word that we might grow in godliness, God wants us to be busy as parents, teaching and training—studying our children; praying with and for them; giving them the wisdom and power of the Scriptures; and listening to their dreams, fears, frustrations, and struggles—all with our eyes fixed on Jesus.

Our young people's emotions are up and down moment by moment, and they can sway widely in their desires and goals. Some of them have God clearly in their viewfinder, yet still need lots of direction; others seem to be chasing castles in the sky without a thought for their Creator. When we fix our eyes *only* on our children's words and behavior, it can be similar to seeing just the little stub of the bamboo tree above ground.

TWO WAYS OF LOOKING AT THE BAMBOO

Looking at that little bamboo stub year after year, we might be seriously tempted to laugh. Likewise, looking at our children and seeing nothing but a little stub of “Godwardness” may stir up unbelief, hopelessness, or self-condemnation.

Seeing spiritual growth in our children, however, can be just as much of a stumbling block to us as *not seeing* it. When we see spiritual growth in our children, we may somehow think we are the ones responsible for that fruit. Our response as parents to our children can either be one of pride and false confidence, or of utter despair and condemnation. Neither of these is what the Lord wants for us.

While there is no guarantee that their hearts are growing in the right direction, God may indeed be at work though His power is hidden from us. He wants us to look with eyes of faith. He delights to show Himself strong toward those who pray and depend on Him, diligently seeking Him with all their hearts (II Chronicles 16:9).

After years of crying out to God on behalf of my children, I am seeing strong

shoots of faith in their lives. With trust in a great God who loves to see His children grow, of root building in our children that will, by His grace, lead to an explosion of spiritual growth. ☺




Tracy Klicka is a homeschooling mom of seven children and the widow of Christopher J. Klicka, who was an international pioneer in the homeschool movement and senior counsel for the Home School Legal Defense Association. He passed away in 2009 after a courageous fifteen-year battle with MS. A seasoned homeschooler and a gifted writer and speaker, Tracy loves to encourage parents to see God's greatness, goodness, and grace in their homeschooling journey. Visit her at www.TracyKlicka.com.

DON'T MISS TRACY'S CONVENTION WORKSHOPS, which include “A Journey of Grace: Coming Alongside Your Child in the Teen Years” and “Order in the House! Peace vs. Chaos in the Home!” View descriptions at www.heav.org.

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- Budget is a Dirty Word ~ Carol Topp, CPA *
- How to Teach Kids About Managing Money (When You're Not Doing So Great Yourself) ~ Carol Topp, CPA
- Homeschooling on a Shoestring Budget: Finding Resources to Fit Your Family ~ Joyce Burges



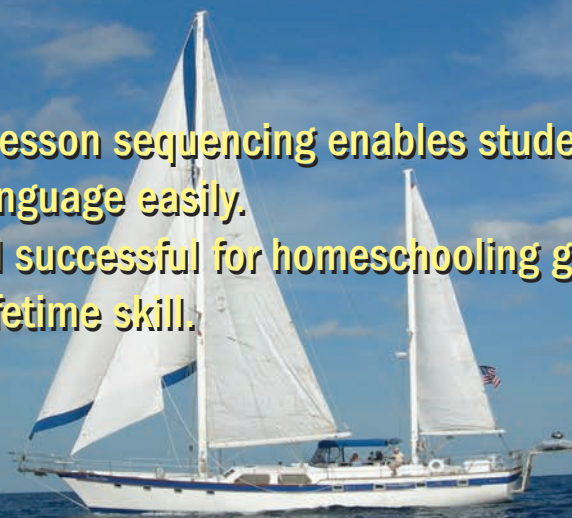
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How Dads Help Homeschools

Scott W. Somerville, Esq.

The average homeschool mom does an amazing job of educating children at home, but homeschooling can be hard and scary work. How can fathers help their homeschools succeed?

Dads can't help their wives over the hurdles of homeschool unless they have some idea of why it can seem so hard. From the first day she decided to homeschool, she has heard voices—real and imagined—that prophesy doom: “Your kids will never learn calculus. You're overprotective! What about socialization?” Whether it is a well-meaning family member or the militant feminist next door, somebody has made it their business to tell her she is ruining her kids.

Husbands often make things worse. Even the best husbands have bad days, and angry words can pierce the heart of a hard-working wife. “What were you *thinking*? I can't believe you were so *stupid*! No wonder our kids can't spell!”

With all these voices warning her away, why would any sane woman keep homeschooling? The number one reason is spiritual. If your primary reason for homeschooling is to raise children who love the Lord their God with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength, then calculus and football just aren't as important. Even spelling takes second place to sanctification—and

the home provides the best possible place for parents to discipline their own children.

*Every member
of your family
can enjoy the
blessing of a better
homeschool
experience.*

PRAISE

If you want your wife to keep homeschooling, then help her see the evidences of grace around her. When your son gets all excited about some project he's working on, thank your wife for helping him to love learning by making it interesting for him. When your daughter forgets to come to dinner because she's so caught up in a story she's reading, tell your wife it's all her

fault—she's the one who helped her love to read! Children who enjoy education today become lifelong learners—which may be more important, in the long run, than anything else they learn.

PRAYER

It sounds trite, but it's still true—dads need to pray for their families. That's especially true for homeschoolers. Homeschooling is always a little bit like walking on water. Although there isn't technically any suspension of the laws of nature involved, it defies logic that an ordinary mom could do a better job of educating her kids at home than all the experts with all their millions of tax-funded dollars. As far as I can tell, the reason homeschooling succeeds is just because Jesus calls us to come to Him. Those who step out of the security of the public school system to brave the waves have Him—and Him alone—to thank if they survive.

PLANNING

One reason homeschool was so hard for my wife was the fear of college. It was one thing to do arts and crafts in kindergarten; it seemed very different to start writing high school credits onto our homegrown transcript. Dads can help their wives enormously by taking responsibility for the “big picture.”

CONCLUSION

If your homeschool has borne spiritual fruit in the past, there's every reason to believe God can make it even more fruitful in the future—especially in the high school years. It can be intimidating, but that's why God commands us to be strong and courageous. With a reasonable amount of praise, prayer, and planning, every member of your family can enjoy the blessing of a better homeschool experience! ☺



Scott Somerville spent fourteen years as a staff attorney at the Home School Legal Defense Association and now serves as general counsel for Lampstand Press, Ltd. (www.tapestryofgrace.com). Scott and Marcia are the parents of six children.

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WORKSHOPS! He'll be speaking on "How to Lead Teens" and "What Wives Wish Their Husbands Knew About Homeschooling." View descriptions at www.heav.org.

How Dads Can Help

Scott W. Somerville, Esq.

PRAISE

The single biggest thing a dad can do to help his wife succeed is to notice what's going right. 3 John 4 says, "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth" (NIV).

Our wives spend all day every day seeing our children—and much of what they see needs so much work! We all tend to notice what is going wrong. It's hard—but important—to notice what is going right. A good husband not only notices what his children are doing right, but he also tells his wife about it.

PRAYER

Dads who pray for their homeschools get better results than those who don't. That doesn't mean that every praying father sends his children off to Harvard or that mothers with unbelieving husbands can't

homeschool. If you're a dad who is reading this article and you don't pray for your family, though, you're ignoring your best hope for happiness. God is more eager to answer our prayers than we are to offer them—even the feeblest and most fitful prayers.

PLANNING

I routinely encourage dads to start exploring colleges—the earlier the better. It's easier than you think: pick some reasonable college you could imagine your child attending some day, and call the admissions office. Say, "We're homeschooling and like the looks of your college—do you have any special procedures for homeschoolers?"

Most American colleges and universities now have some kind of process designed for the homeschool grad, and the process is not intimidating. If you start now to develop a concrete plan to get your child admitted into one actual college, you'll find most other admissions offices just use variations on that theme. ☺

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Adapting Curriculum for Your Child with Special Needs

Judi Munday, M.A., M. Ed.

Parents who teach more than one child find it challenging to individualize their teaching material when teaching a child with special needs. There is too little time, and there are few guidelines for choosing “what works” when the child’s particular strengths and weaknesses create a poor fit between the book and the learner. Students with disabilities vary widely in their physical and emotional development as well as in their abilities to be attentive. Clearly, one size does not fit all, and students with special needs often cannot use material “as is.” Prepackaged curricula available for homeschools often do not include directions on how to adapt or modify teaching content, provide alternative strategies, or give varied levels of assessment.

What can you do? It *can* take a lot of effort to individualize, but it doesn’t have to! Since students with special needs don’t always progress a full year in academic growth, the real issue is just HOW to ensure that your child makes progress. There are those end-of-the-year assessments that make it risky to alter the content! What if your student does not score at the twenty-third percentile? The good news is there are easy-to-learn adaptations that will enhance your teaching skills for all your children without taking an excessive amount of time to implement.

ACCOMMODATIONS AND MODIFICATIONS

Accommodations and modifications are adjustments to curricula that are designed to help ensure your students can acquire new learning and show what they know. Accommodations do *not* change the level of difficulty. They are adjustments to setting, timing, learning styles, presentation, student output, and teacher input. Modifications *do* change the level of difficulty. They alter quantity, instructional level, materials, and student output. You must discern when to accommodate and when to modify.

REWORDING

There are several critical tools that can help you adapt curriculum to the appropriate level for your student with special needs. Many standard textbook questions are at a level of thinking beyond the child’s ability. *Bloom’s Taxonomy* can help. It is a handbook chart that breaks down the level of cognitive challenge with wording at the appropriate level. Simply by rewording, you move the difficulty level up or down, and no other tools are required. It is a power-tool you can use that equips you to easily adapt the level of oral and written content. There is no need to prepare in advance.

USING MULTI-SENSORY WORK

Performance-based tasks are a powerful teaching alternative. Instead of emphasizing paper-and-pencil school work, the use of well-chosen activities can permit a child to work in his area of strength, such as art or performance. The activities allow more creativity and the use of multi-sensory, hands-on work. Performance-based activities link classroom activity to real life. They are fun, but can you grade a speech or art project? Yes!

Performance-based instruction can be graded with rubrics. A rubric is a graph or table-like chart that specifies exactly what elements of a task will be evaluated and describes mastery for each attribute. This way of grading with objective data is readily understandable to the student.

As you score the work together, ALWAYS begin the review with praise. “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.” (Philippians 4:8)

ORGANIZING

Additional adaptations that have proven effective for students with special needs include graphic organizers. Graphic organizers are one-page worksheets that a parent or student may fill in. The organizer is usually prepared in a chart-like format (such as NBA playoff charts). Typically, the parent uses software to generate a blank form and works with the student to fill in the data. More advanced students may utilize software to generate their own graphic organizer as a study tool. Why use graphic organizers? They can be used for almost every

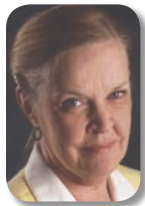
subject at almost every grade level. They are especially useful for students with special needs because they require less writing, reinforce key concepts, and permit students to see a visual representation of abstract information (or complex content relationships).

INCORPORATING TECHNOLOGY

Assistive technology is another important option for adapting curriculum. With available technology, students can now dictate to a computer instead of putting work down on paper. Text-to-speech programs permit students to listen to textbooks, web content, and even scanned documents. Touch screens and adaptive communication devices enable students to communicate more effectively. Calculators and online math software allow students to practice math independently and receive immediate feedback. There are even online dissection programs for science! The Internet offers an endless array of teaching videos—from “how to measure a board” to “how to solve a calculus problem.” DVD and Blue-ray options open countless doors to new content for poor readers and students who need visual reinforcement for learning.

CONCLUSION

Summing it up, there are several powerful strategies that effectively adapt curriculum for students with special needs. Bloom’s *Taxonomy* adjusts levels of difficulty for all learners. Performance-based tasks move beyond paper and pencil and enable students to work around weaknesses. Rubrics help parents give a concrete description of mastery learning and help students recognize excellence. Graphic organizers provide critical support for students who struggle with abstract concepts and complex content. Technology is an incredible asset when used wisely and appropriately. With these simple tools, it is possible for parents to adapt curriculum for students with special needs. ☺



Judi Munday is a special-needs educational consultant. She serves families of children with a wide variety of special needs in diagnostic assessments, phone and one-on-one consultations, tutoring, and support for homeschoolers.

DON'T MISS JUDI'S CONVENTION WORKSHOPS, which include “Strategies for Teaching Children with Communication Challenges” and “Using Effective Instruction and Performance-Based Teaching”! View her complete workshop descriptions at www.heav.org.

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