

Benefits of homeschooling with special needs:

- ◆ Flexibility — ability to take breaks when needed
- ◆ Individualized Education — one on one time with you
- ◆ Builds strong character both in you and your child — struggles make you work hard

Strategies that work:

- ◆ Give First/Then Statements
- ◆ Build in Breaks (provide healthy snacks and lots of water)
- ◆ Provide Brain Breaks (to get heart rate up)
- ◆ Positive Reinforcement
- ◆ Use Visuals: calendar, chore chart, schedules, whiteboard, timers, interactive metronome
- ◆ Teach to interests
- ◆ Look at strengths to develop teaching plan (hyperfocus, easy to engage, observant, hard worker)
- ◆ Integrate graphic organizers
- ◆ Mnemonic flashcards
- ◆ Picture cues
- ◆ Mind maps
- ◆ Don't let feet dangle, use foot rest
- ◆ You want a strong core, 90/90/90 position
- ◆ Try multisensory curriculum and/or Right-brained material
- ◆ Teach organization and time management
- ◆ Use audio books
- ◆ Keep in mind retention rates are highest when kids are teaching others, practicing by doing, discussing, and demonstrating
- ◆ Sometimes ADHD kids need things sped up

Executive Functioning:

- ◆ Executive Functioning is being able to hold information, adapt to change, prioritize, and focus
- ◆ Movement influences brain functioning skills
- ◆ Ideas to improve executive functioning in your homeschool:
 - learn from cooking
 - take nature walks
 - draw body scan and talk about body
 - use whiteboard
 - team sports can be very good
 - break down big tasks

For kids that need alternatives to sitting:

- ◆ Prone position
- ◆ Supine position
- ◆ Sit on therapy ball or sit disc
- ◆ Stand or Squat
- ◆ Sit on Tea Stool

When kids need to sit still to focus, stabilize the body, and respect others:

- ◆ Lay out expectations (first we are getting in the car, then we will drive here, etc.)
- ◆ What does your child need to do before, during, and after for them to be able to sit?
 - Before sitting still: engage in activities like crawling, pogo jumping, obstacle course
 - During the expected still time: use fidget toys, gum, lap pads, paper clip, flipping pen
 - After sitting: use metacognition skills to think about how you are learning and ask questions: how did your head feel? How did your body feel? What did you learn?

No Perfect Curriculum... find what works for you!**Possible curriculum to look at using:**

- ◆ Memoria Press Simply Classical Curriculum

Phonics/Reading:

- ◆ Pathway Reading/Phonics Pathways
- ◆ Happy Cheetah
- ◆ Right Brain Phonics
- ◆ Phonics & Reading Pure and Simple
- ◆ Reading Reflex
- ◆ Explode the Code
- ◆ All About Reading
- ◆ MaxScholar

Literature Guides:

- ◆ Literature Disguised as Fun
- ◆ Edcon

Spelling:

- ◆ Sequential Spelling
- ◆ All About Spelling
- ◆ Spelling You See

English/Writing:

- ◆ Winston Grammar
- ◆ Writing Skills
- ◆ Easy Grammar
- ◆ Grammar Galaxy
- ◆ Power Basics

Handwriting:

- ◆ Cursive Logic
- ◆ Rhythm of Handwriting

Math:

- ◆ Math•U•See
- ◆ Math With Confidence
- ◆ Learn Math Fast
- ◆ Math Lessons for a Living Education
- ◆ Key to Math Series
- ◆ Life of Fred Elementary
- ◆ MCP Math
- ◆ Power Basics
- ◆ Bridge the Gap Math
- ◆ Math Essentials: Finding & Filling the Gaps
- ◆ Mastering Essential Math

History:

- ◆ Short Lessons in History
- ◆ Power Basics
- ◆ Diana Waring History Revealed
- ◆ Biblioplan
- ◆ Learning American History Through Literature

Science:

- ◆ Friendly Science
- ◆ 101 DVD Series
- ◆ God's Design for Science
- ◆ Mystery of Science
- ◆ Power Basics

Resources beyond curriculum:

- ◆ *Brain Integration Therapy Program* by Dianne Craft
- ◆ *Thrive* by Jenny Hubanks
- ◆ *Reclaiming Education* by Cynthia Tobias and Mary Jo Dean
- ◆ *Read Better* by Linda Schrock Taylor
- ◆ Victus Study Skills
- ◆ Toobaloo
- ◆ Mirror My Sounds Phoneme Set
- ◆ Weighted Lap Pad

High School:

- ◆ Think of your learner
- ◆ Depending on state, you should be able to give credit for lower grade level books if they count by hours
- ◆ Accommodations — use grade leveled material but at a slower pace when students need more time. Accommodations also offers support that removes barriers and reduces amount of work
- ◆ Modifications — need lower leveled material (remember you don't need to stop at 4 years)



HELPFUL RESOURCES

Reading & Writing Software Tools:

- ◆ Dragon: Naturally Speaking (speech recognition tool and creates custom words)
- ◆ Sky Wifi Smartpen
- ◆ Learning Ally (Audio books)
- ◆ Kurzweil Subscription (literacy support)

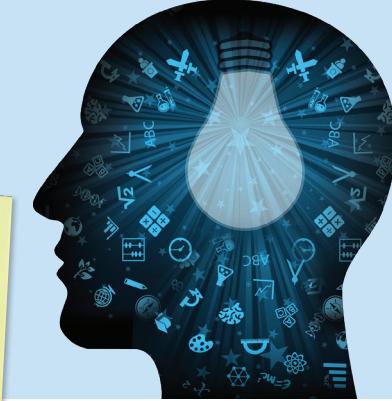
Free Services:

- ◆ Spedhomeschool.com (wonderful resource with option to upgrade membership for a fee)
- ◆ Empowering Homeschool Conversations (podcast)
- ◆ Teacher toolkit (techniques for effective teaching)
- ◆ Teacher Vision (teaching resources)

Cognitive Learning Service options that you pay for:

- ◆ Learning Rx
- ◆ Therapeutic Listening
- ◆ Equipping Minds

Does Your Child **Learn** Differently?



Our consultants talk to many parents of children who learn differently. These challenges vary greatly but, in general, you are some of the most dedicated homeschooling parents—determined to make a difference for your child and break through whatever barriers exist. Our goal: to help however we can by identifying products/programs which will address learning styles, individual strengths and weaknesses, educational goals, and family dynamics (focusing on your personal needs the FAMILY way).

We've compiled a list of some programs that are effective in many of these challenging situations. Included in these lists you'll find products:

- geared to kids who learn differently – for instance, right-brained learners.
- with slower pacing or review.
- adaptable for multisensory learning.

Simply Classical from Memoria Press offers an organized curriculum plan for teaching from a classical education philosophy.

Dianne Craft has adapted Occupational Therapy techniques for home use. *Brain Integration Therapy* is the core of her training. Learn how your child's brain is working and methods (with lesson plans) to rectify learning blocks. Available DVDs help parents apply techniques in teaching.

Discover! (Edovate) offers alternate activities and assessments to meet needs of all learners.

Power Basics designs high school courses written at a 4th-5th grade reading level in these core subjects: **Math, ELA, Science, and Social Studies**.

AOP LIFEPAK®, Paradigm Accelerated Curriculum, and Starline Press offer curriculum in several subject areas that are divided into self-paced, short and non-intimidating worktexts.

Dyslexia Games is a series of workbooks that use art and logic to "reprogram the brain" gradually, through research-based activities.

PHONICS/READING:

Right Brain Phonics (1-8)

Helps struggling readers "to see", recall, and remember what is taught.

Easy-For-Me Reading (PK-3)

Uses techniques known to be successful with picture thinkers, right-brained, kinesthetic, visual, and other nontraditional learners.

All About Reading (PK-4)

Orton-Gillingham-based program that builds in much review and repetition.

Happy Cheetah (K-2)

Context-based; integrates phonics and language arts through copywork.

Pathway Reading (1-8)

Non-distracting Amish-based readers provide fluency practice for struggling readers.

Phonics/Reading Pathways (PK-8)

Phonics-based approach to reading/spelling that incorporates visual and eye tracking exercises.

TouchPhonics (K-5)

Developed by a special education teacher to help struggling readers better grasp phonics through tactile manipulation.

ABC See, Hear, Do (PK-3)

This one of a kind learn-to-read program combines visual, auditory, and kinesthetic learning styles to make learning to read easy and fun! The letters are not presented in alphabetical order but in ease of learning to read. Children will be able to read words after learning only four letters in the first book!

SPELLING:

All About Spelling (1-9)

Phonics-based with review and repetition.

Sequential Spelling (1-8)

Originally created for dyslexics. Teaches spelling through a word family, multi-sensory approach.

Spelling-You-See (1-8)

Systematic, easy-to-use method based on developmental stages.

Illustrated Book of Sounds & Spelling Patterns (K-3)

Teaches reading and spelling of all sounds that are the basic building blocks of all words. Designed for right brain learners, picture and global thinkers.

ENGLISH/WRITING:

Practice Coach Plus ELA (3-8)

Offers diagnostic assessments and has scaffolding instruction.

Winston Grammar (4-12)

Multi-sensory grammar program.

Writing Skills (2-12)

Building blocks approach takes students from foundational skills to a five-paragraph essay.

Thoughtful Learning All Write (5-8)

Remedial option to fill gaps or introduce writing/grammar to an ESL learner using simplified language.

Moving Beyond the Page (2-10)

Written for gifted learners but provides activities for creative or hands-on learners, allowing for differentiated lessons.

HANDWRITING:

Handwriting Without Tears (1-7)

OT-developed writing style with manipulatives.

Rhythm of Handwriting (PK-8)

Unique style that minimizes fine motor articulation to develop. Tactile card supplements.

CursiveLogic (1-12)

Uses color grouping, sayings, and tracing to teach or remediate cursive writing.

MATH:

Math-U-See (K-12)

Emphasis on concept development. Video-based, teacher-student, hands-on instruction.

Right Brain Math (K-7)

Teaches the visual spatial learner or right brain learner, who struggles to grasp a typical left-brain focused math program.

RightStart (K-7)

Offers a comprehensive, multisensory approach that integrates games. Available as a leveled program or in topical Tutoring kits.

Simply Good & Beautiful Math (K-8)

Lessons teach all learning styles with games, activities, and stories. Grade 7 provides review of basic math prior to Prealgebra.

Learn Math Fast (1-12)

Streamlined program for targeted skills.

Math Lessons for a Living Ed. (PK-6)

Story-based math at a more relaxed pace.

MCP Math (K-6)

Slower-paced traditional math program.

Life of Fred Math (1-12)

Unconventional, story-based math instruction. Strong on concept development.

Key to Math Series (4-12)

Skills-focused series with small worktexts that build incrementally.

Math with Confidence (K-5)

Soft background color with less overcrowding on pages offers an improved visual experience for some students.

HISTORY:

The Nomadic Professor (9-12)

Features audio lessons, on-location video lectures, hands-on activities, and flashcards and guided notes for adaptability.

History Revealed (3-12)

Chronological study of history that focuses on Meyer-Briggs personality types.

SCIENCE:

The 101 Series (9-12)

Instructional DVDs with printable (or pre-printed) resources offer an alternative to textbooks.

Friendly Science (6-12)

Clearly explains text, easy to follow illustrations and workbook activities provide a straightforward learning experience. Optional videos.