

Teaching a Struggling Student

I had my curriculum planned, my laminated calendar hung up, and my “school room” nicely decorated. What could go wrong.....

If there is a learning concern—there is no harm in getting your child tested.

—Little Giant Steps is where we found our answers, but there are other places to go

<https://www.littlegiantsteps.com/>

We took a two year break from conventional curriculum to train her brain how to function properly.

Meet your child where he/she is academically or struggling rather than trying to keep up with a curriculum or particular grade level.

- Give yourself permission to not follow everything in a curriculum: to skip things, repeat things, or even take a complete break from curriculum in order to first meet the needs of your child.

-This is beauty of homeschooling.

God has the answers.

- After a really bad day, I would go to the Lord, have a good cry, and ask the Lord what I needed to do differently. God always gave me a new idea, and the following day always went so much better.

“If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.” James 1:5

I love Albert Einstein's description of insanity as “doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.” If something's not working, change it.

Have realistic expectations and adjust them as you go.

—If something was not going right usually, I had to adjust my expectations typically in one of two ways.

Either 1.) I was expecting my daughter to do too much and needed to adjust the activity or duration of the activity.

Or 2.) I didn't need to change the activity or duration, but only change my expectation of how long it would take her to “get it,” which would affect how I reacted to her (often in impatience and frustration)—which would affect how she reacted to me.

When managing or avoiding struggles:

Stay calm —don't allow yourself to enter in the struggle. Once you start arguing with your child you are now acting at their level.

Have "to go" phrases.

When she didn't want to do something, I might calmly say... "I love you so much, and it is my job to teach you..." or when she was about to lose it "Girls that make poor choices, don't get..." (I learned this skill through Love and Logic training when I was a teacher. <https://www.loveandlogic.com>) My favorite parenting resource right now is <https://www.positiveparentingsolutions.com/>.

Use humor instead of nagging.

My daughter had to wear an eye patch for a couple years during her schooling and would often pull it off without thinking about it. Rather than nagging, I found a cute hand gesture and phrase to remind her to put it back on.

Set natural motivators throughout your school day.

The greatest reward any child wants is time with mommy. I would allot a set time for my daughter or son to accomplish several activities and would tell them whatever time they had left in that allotted time, I would play anything they wanted with them.

Embrace this season

I have 4 kids all 2 years apart from each other, so there were plenty of moments when between 2 to 4 kids were all crying at the same time. Kids and babies cry—that's part of the age and learning how to handle their emotions and learning how to communicate them. When those moments occur, know you are not alone. When I found myself in moments like that, I would sing to myself, think of that moment as an inside joke with God, or do anything else that would keep me from entering in their moment and crying right along with them.