**Q&A Session 3**

**Homeschooling: Differentiation for special learning needs**

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 Q: How important are Co-Ops and what is the best way to find a good and safe one?

 A: On our Resource document, you will find several links to various Homeschool organizations by state or region as well as conventions where many of these groups will also be present. I encourage researching the mission and goals of the group to see if they align with your family’s group. Also, take your time with moving into participating in the coops and organizations rather than jumping in so that your children are not too invested when you then learn it is not a good fit for you and your family.

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Q: Without an IEP, the therapy is paid for privately, is that correct?

A: Unfortunately, yes that is correct most of the time. However, some flexibility may be found in your district based on their policies so research what options they have with alternatives before paying out of pocket.

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Q: how do you build confidence and positive learning attitude once they have lost those from struggles in school?

A:

1. **C**reate a new environment that is safe, calming and loving
2. **O**pen communication is key (share concerns with child and answer their questions)
3. **N**ever blame or point fingers that includes the child, the teacher and other children involved
4. **F**orge Forward (avoid replaying situations of the past and move forward towards new goals)
5. **I**nclude family, friends and support systems in helping the child regain confidence
6. **D**evelop a growth mindset instead of a fixed mindset (grow and learn from setbacks)
7. **E**ngage the child in confidence building activities (whatever will make them shine)
8. **N**ote to self: Nothing is constant except change. Your child will regain their confidence.
9. **C**hallenge your child to keep practicing and improving. Reward them for their success.
10. **E**ncourage always and discover what they are good at doing

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Q: I've requested testing for my son before Covid hit and he has still not been tested (now school system is citing Covid as barrier), so I got him tested and paid for it myself through Ed Psych. Can school use this instead?

A: The school should be able to use the test scores as a guide depending upon the time frame in which you decide received the results. I would contact the school district to ask if they can use the test to move forward.

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Q: What are examples of "Showcase their talent?

A: Examples of showcasing their talents. My son has various talents and gifts that I encourage he continues to showcase. For example: He likes art and will find you tube channels that demonstrate how to draw animals, characters etc. I encourage my son to continue to practice on his talent. As he works on the artwork, I am noticing he has a steady hand and that his characters seem to jump off the page. He isn’t “Picasso” or maybe he is. I encourage him instead of discouraging him and I also celebrate each piece of artwork. We showcase it by hanging it in different parts of our home.

Another example: My son enjoys dancing and singing. It’s funny because he can’t really dance and that may be partially my fault because I am not a skilled dancer either. What I allow my son to do is express himself and dance all over the house. We video tape him and share it with our friends.

Showcasing is simply bringing to life anything that provides joy and excitement to your child. Who knows it may be that very thing that gets them a scholarship, a opportunity or a chance to simply believe in themselves?

My son was an artist, and we used 4H and entering things into the county and state fairs as an avenue to showcase his talents.

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Q: For Super Negotiators how do you limit their choices and based on what criteria?

A: Great question. Limit your child with 2-3 choices. For example: Your child may not be interested in doing math by computer. You could offer that he/she play a counting game or move forward with another subject. This gives them the power to negotiate on a task and empowers them to take an interest in their education.

Too many choices can be overwhelming. As a parent you determine the rules. Discuss the rules with the child that they have choices but if they can’t decide within a specific timeframe the parent has the final say.

Parents must determine which scenarios will be up for negotiation. I believe this must be state upfront and no choice options shall be given.

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 Q: What resources can you recommend for helping with behavioral and emotional regulation for children... curriculum, programs, etc. for ADHD?

A: we have provided a couple of resources specific to ADHD in our Resource Document.

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Q: How common is the Cocktail Party syndrome? Is this common with Asperger's Syndrome?

A: I know that based on research I have done and my doctor provided that it is more common than we ever knew. Last estimate, 20% of the population may have a hearing issue that impacts their ability to hear or discern sounds. Many of these are not issues that can be tested for. Instead they are identified by ruling out other things.

I have no knowledge of the relationship if any with Asperger’s Syndrome. I am sorry.

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Q: Any teenage references?

A: HHS.gov: <https://www.hhs.gov/ash/oah/adolescent-development/physical-health-and-nutrition/chronic-conditions-and-disabilities/resources.html>

<https://www.phase2parenting.com/special-needs>

<https://www.familyeducation.com/school/tools-ld-children/special-education-resources-older-teens>

<https://www.comfortinganxiouschildren.com/teens-and-adults-with-anxiety-and-special-needs-links-and-resources/>

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 Q: How much time for lessons?

A: Each lesson will vary on the child(s) progress and the curriculum. My son works best in incremental time frames. For example: (Math 20 mins. Break 15 min. Science 20 mins.)

 I would assess your child and determine what works best for your family. Many curriculums provide suggested time frames based upon each lesson requirements. The greatest benefit of homeschooling is the flexibility and the ability make it work for your students needs.