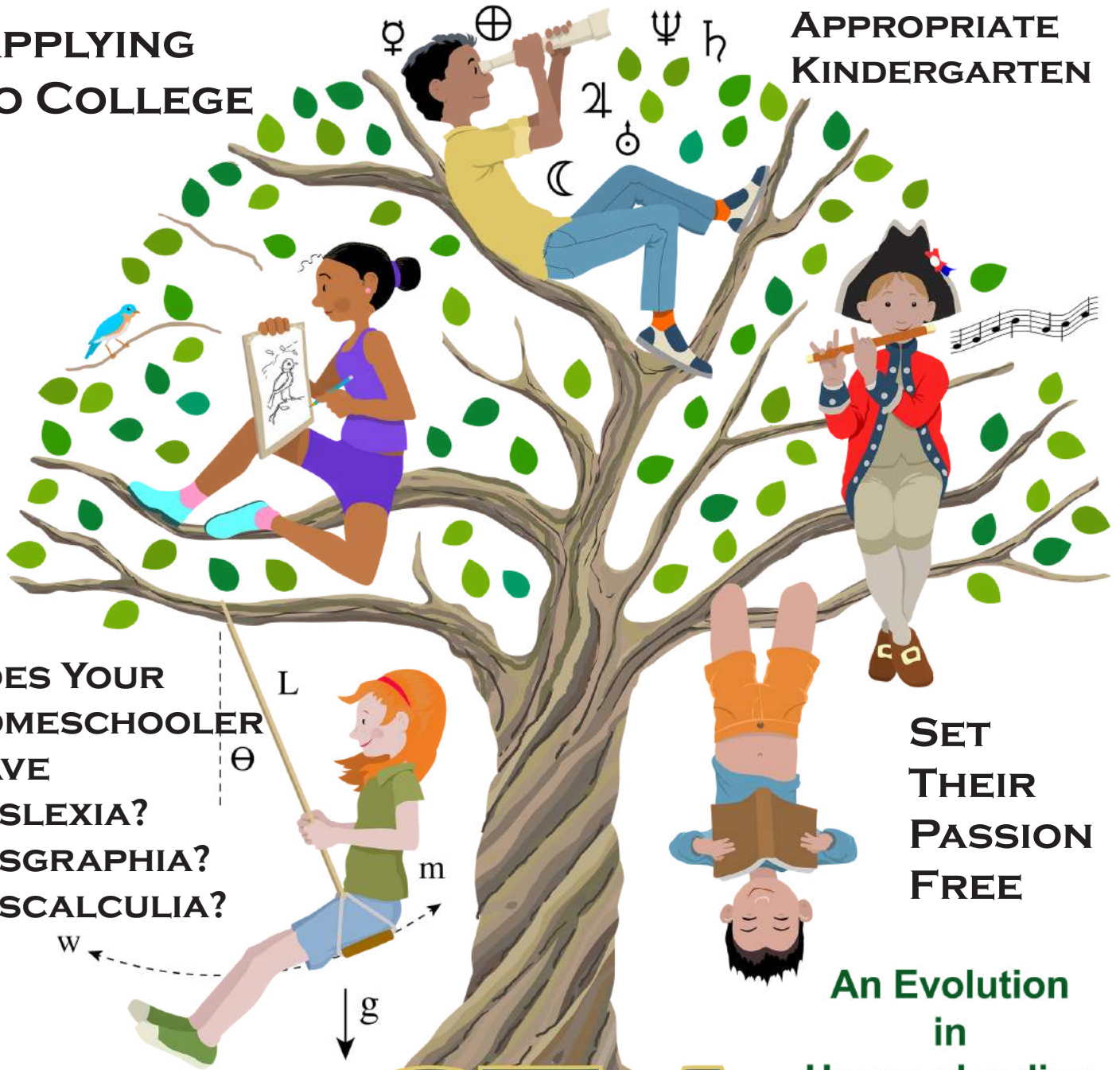


APPLYING  
TO COLLEGE

DEVELOPMENTALLY  
APPROPRIATE  
KINDERGARTEN



DOES YOUR  
HOMESCHOOLER  
HAVE  
DYSLEXIA?  
DYSGRAPHIA?  
DYSCALCULIA?

SET  
THEIR  
PASSION  
FREE

An Evolution  
in  
Homeschooling



Secular, Eclectic, Academic

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# DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE KINDERGARTEN

If you are homeschooling kindergarten this year and have asked homeschooling friends what to do, you may feel you have only two options: An academic year full of curriculum, or unschooling, where you just trust your child will play their way to all the skills they need. Are you frustrated? I am. As an occupational therapist, I know there is at least one more choice, developmental kindergarten. Developmental kindergarten focuses on helping children develop all the underlying skills they need to go on to be successful. Many versions of kindergarten have existed since its origins over 100 years ago, but in the beginning it was supposed to be a place where children learned and grew in a developmentally appropriate way. It was not supposed to teach reading, writing, spelling or other academic skills, but to instead help children build physical and mental skills that would help them to do well in school and life. The children were not expected to lead themselves, but to follow an adult's example and play in groups with toys that were provided to give them growth opportunities.

As an OT, I miss those developmental kindergartens, because they helped

children build skills that they often miss out on today. What were the magical things that were a part of that program? Blocks, dolls, toys, nursery rhymes and songs, story books, crafts and games were the heart of a good kindergarten. Today's parents and teachers are skipping over these things, in favor of more academics, but let me tell you why these simple things make the best kindergarten experience possible.

Songs and nursery rhymes were a daily part of kindergarten once upon a time. Why bother to learn these archaic little poems? Because children learn language through rhyme, rhythm, and repetition best. By learning to recite rhymes and sing songs, children work on articulation, vocabulary and public speaking. The act of memorizing these poems about lambs and songs about very small spiders, activate long term memory skills the brain will use later to memorize important information.



Blocks are incredible sources for child development. If you want to spend money on kindergarten equipment, buy some good wooden unit blocks. Blocks are the most natural way to learn math, physics and visual perceptual skills. As a child builds homes, roads and castles, they count to make sure the walls match, they measure with their eyes where to put the next block, they imagine what it will look like when completed and work towards that goal. These basic skills are the ones that are essential to becoming engineers and architects. The hand strength to lift and move the blocks, prepares children for handwriting, tying shoes and working buttons. And the endurance of character to build again when your tower crashes down will serve them in every aspect of their lives.

Dolls and dress up are just as important as blocks. Children want to imagine themselves as adults, and having the space to play house, dress up, and care for dolls lets them do this. While performing this kind of play, children build fine motor skills as they dress the dolls, stir their play food and do other household tasks. If children engage in this play with friends, it also builds social skills and language skills. While playing with blocks may be a quiet task, playing house involves a lot of group imagination and communication. Children playing house teach each other new words as they mimic their parents. While it can be terrifying to hear your child discuss auto insurance, it is also pretty entertaining. These make believe conversations prepare children to have deeper thoughts and conversations when they return to being themselves, instead of their make believe character.

The value of basic arts and crafts should never be underrated: Crayons, scissors, glue, and paint are essential to fine motor development. Do you want your child to have neat handwriting? Encourage them to spend time in kindergarten making art. Paint with every kind of paint and brush you can find. Color with crayons and pastels. Help your child learn to cut with scissors. If you don't know where to start with scissor skills, get a Kumon cutting book, which will help your child go from simple straight lines to complex shapes. Even the act of smearing with a glue stick and squeezing a bottle of glue, help develop hand strength and control that prepare children for writing later. The visual perceptual skill of learning to copy shapes and draw homes and people, are essential to learning to write. Too often today, I see kids in therapy who were pushed to learn to write letters before they could draw a decent circle or triangle, which should have come first.



Stories and books are at the heart of a good literacy start for your child. It isn't important that your child read at this age, but that they are read to, daily. The language part of their brain that will some day search for words to write term papers, is gaining the vocabulary they need from listening to good story books. At age 5, many children do not yet have the ability to create the pictures in their minds that we adults see when reading a book, so picture books are most appropriate. Children can look at the pictures, hear the words and make more connections about the story than they would just hearing it. Encourage them to search for story clues in the pictures, the same way they will someday search for clues in the text to know what is going on.

We all know that children love messy play—sand, water, finger paints, sensory bins and play dough are almost universally popular. But what developmental skills does your child get from those? Fingers learn unique skills and build strength and dexterity from scooping, pouring, sifting, squeezing and all the motions done during messy play. Messy play builds muscles, as children lift heavy buckets of sand or water, and work at tasks much longer than usual. While a child may normally have

**Laura Sowdon, OTR/L**  
**Woodbridge, VA**

Laura is an occupational therapist, a veteran homeschooler and mother of three amazing kids, ages 16, 11 and 9. She blogs and writes curriculum for *Five Senses Literature Lessons* at [www.5sensesLL.com](http://www.5sensesLL.com) While you can always build your own, Five Senses Literature Lessons offers developmentally appropriate curriculums that work for children with a wide range of learning styles and includes lesson plans to help you meet the needs of kids with learning challenges.

an attention span of just a few minutes, messy play will draw a child in and keep them working at a task far longer. By building their attention span through play, they become ready to do adult directed tasks and lessons longer and with more concentration that they learned through play.

Kindergarten should be a fun year of learning and growing, not a stressful year of struggling to learn skills like reading and writing that tiny hands and eyes are not yet ready to do. Enhance your child's kindergarten year by helping them learn and grow in a developmentally appropriate way. You only get to do kindergarten once, so enjoy this magical year with your child.





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# Advice on Applying to College

By Blair Lee, MS

This year is an exciting one for us. Our son, who was homeschooled from 1st grade until he graduated, is going to college. He applied to nine colleges and was accepted at six of them and was put on the waitlist of one of them. He received scholarship offers at three of the colleges. In the end, and after some soul searching on his part, he accepted the offer from the college that was closest to home, San Diego State University. We have a close-knit family, and he decided that he wants to be close enough to see all of us regularly.

Homeschooling through high school to college is not as hard as many think. We discovered that public colleges and universities, for the most part, are neither homeschool friendly nor unfriendly. As a homeschooling parent, I was nervous when it came to the college application process. I am not a high school counselor with experience helping kids go to college. It turned out to be easier than I thought it would be, but there were still some surprises. Here is a list of some of the things I learned this year. It is important to note, that all but one of the colleges and universities Sean applied to were public not private institutions.

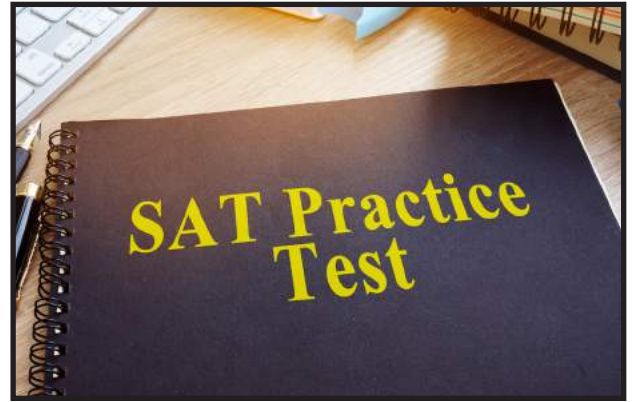
1. Throughout high school, make sure your student takes lab-rich science courses and uses history resources that teach accurate mainstream history. FYI, non-secular history is problematic for admission into many public colleges and universities. For science and history, make sure the resources you choose are secular academic. Sean used all my RSO textbooks for high school, along with supplements, as well as a physics course taught by someone else. Almost every college he was accepted to, upon learning he was homeschooled, required a course syllabus from his science courses (and in the case of two colleges, history), course descriptions, and in one case a lab report from each course. I assume none of the colleges are familiar with the science courses I write, which indicates that the course syllabi played an important role in establishing that he had learned mainstream science and history while doing extensive lab work for science. When I asked one college admissions officer if the purpose of asking homeschoolers for this documentation was to make sure the science and history the student learned was real, she said, “Yeah, that’s the reason.”



2. Sean did not take standardized tests until he took the ACT. I had him treat studying for it as a class. And he took a course through Test Prep Expert. Before that, he chose which test he preferred. He took a practice ACT and SAT and chose the one he liked best. For him, the ACT was a clear winner.

3. He wrote a killer essay all on his own. My husband and I reviewed it and gave feedback after he had written it, but that was all. He chose a very personal topic, and it showed in the essay.

4. As a junior, he took a class with Michael Clay Thompson, MCT, who then wrote Sean's letter of recommendation. I highly recommend a class or two taught by someone else who you and your child respect as an academician. It doesn't have to be writing, Sean has always loved to write, and the MCT courses were favorites of his, which made MCT a natural fit. Your child will want to have a letter of recommendation from someone other than their parent when they apply to college. The reason for taking these courses shouldn't be just the letter, but it is an added benefit, and an important component of many college applications.



5. Lots of service that is meaningful for your student and the world. It is one of the things we have heavily incorporated into our homeschool journey. Many colleges look for the service work students did in high school. Because of this, students might choose a service project for that reason alone. If you can, try not to let that be the only reason for the volunteer work your child is doing. There is a reason colleges like to see service projects on transcripts (and it isn't just to get into college). It is because colleges like students who are engaged in the larger world, students who are working to be the change they want in the world.

6. Eclectic and different is not a bad thing - Sean's transcript is crazy looking! He got credit for things like a semester roadschooling geology; I called it Geology Fieldwork on Sean's transcript. You are already choosing a path that is different, you might as well embrace it, take chances, and craft something unique and academically-rich.



7. I got help putting together and assigning credit values for Sean's transcript from someone who does that sort of thing for a living. I wanted to make sure the work Sean did in high school was adequately documented.

8. Keep good solid records, with course descriptions, every year so it is easy to remember what you did.



9. Sean has 1 year of college level computer science classes. I think that is something homeschoolers should make sure their children have. Not necessarily college level, high school would be okay. But have some of this. This is an important skill for today's job market. It is also an important skill to have during college.
10. If your child needs a gap year take it! Sean took a much-needed gap year. It did not hurt him at all when applying to colleges.
11. Visit the colleges. The top two colleges that were Sean's favorites and the bottom two when he sent out application switched places after he visited the schools.
12. The admissions officers are your friends. Call and talk to them if you have any questions or concerns. We have had great luck getting all our questions answered.

I wish your child much luck as they pursue their dreams to college and beyond!

Blair will be speaking about **Homeschooling: High School to College** in May at the [CHN Family Expo](#) in Garden Grove, CA.

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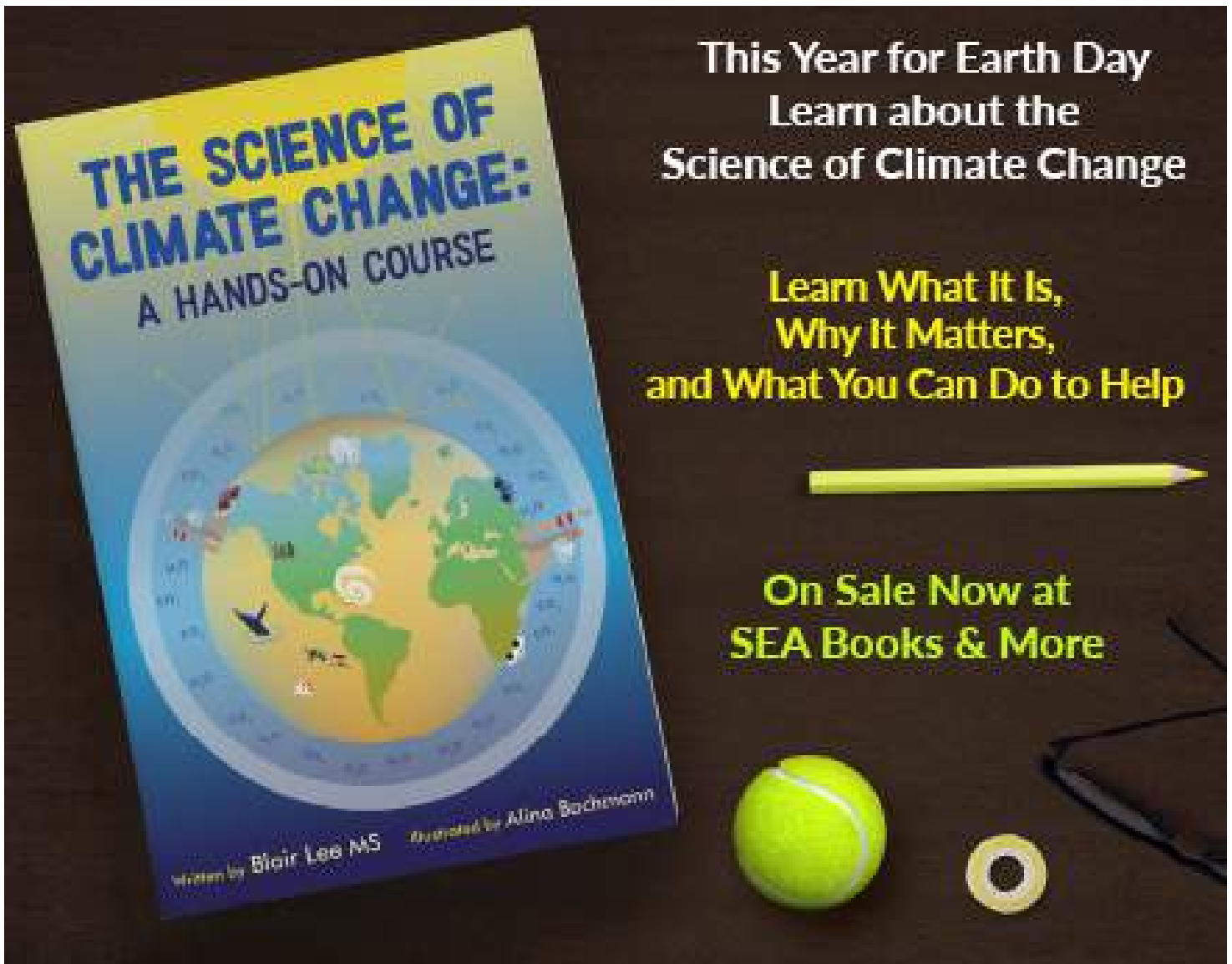


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## Meaningful Earth Day Activities for Kids

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- [No yard? Create a Terrarium](#)
- [Put out Food and Water for the Birds](#)
- [Grow Flowers for Bees and Butterflies](#)
- [Use Less Water](#)
- [Create Plantable Seed Paper](#)
- [Make Art from Recycled Materials](#)
- [Read The Science of Climate Change and other Books about Caring for the Earth](#)

# Spring Activities to go with the book *I'm in Charge of Celebrations* by Byrd Baylor

By Ann Ryan, Host of the [Learning Outside the Lines](#) podcast

Byrd Baylor is known for her children's books celebrating Native American observations. This story tells of a girl's celebration of 108 days, each a special event that she experienced in the desert. Her connection with nature feels real and special. She beautifully celebrates and describes a meeting with a coyote, dust devils, clouds, falling stars, and rainbows. Baylor's prose and descriptive language is beautiful and the illustrations are vibrant and moving.

To celebrate this book and connect with nature, I'm sharing some activities that we've done to think more about some of the story's special events. Younger children often love reading stories over and over so we read this book each day for a week and focused on a different event/ observation each day. You might want to do the same or just choose certain activities, whatever works for you!

Try to take a nature walk each day this story is read. It doesn't have to be in the woods or the desert or any specific place. Just take a walk and see what nature you can find, however large or small. Encourage your child to find something new each day that they did not see before.

## **Monday:**

This is a story of celebrations. Talk about what celebrations are. What type of celebrations does your family celebrate?

Find something to celebrate today that you normally wouldn't think of as a special event. It may be something you do or something you see or experience out doors.

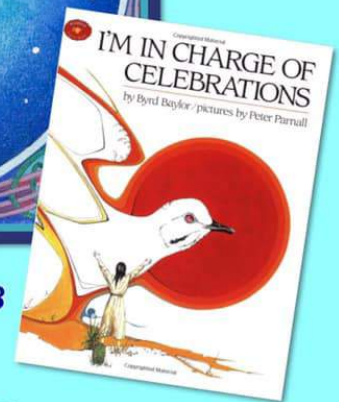
Talk about your special event and come up with a story or picture of your celebration to share with your family.

## *Spring Equinox Changes & A Special Book Reading*



**Podcast Episode 38**

[www.LearningOutsideTheLines.com](http://www.LearningOutsideTheLines.com)



**Tuesday:**

The girl celebrates dust devils or whirlwinds. What do you think a dust devil or whirlwind feels like? Try to move like a dust devil would move. What noises would you hear? Try to imitate those noises as you move like a dust devil. Come up with your own dust devil dance.

**Wednesday:**

The girl also celebrates a day she saw a special cloud. Go outside and watch the clouds. What do you see? Watch the clouds as they change and see what shapes you can find.

Art project:

Tear white construction paper into small pieces. Place them on a blue piece of construction paper in the shape of something you saw in the clouds. Cotton balls work too.

OR Use shaving cream to draw cloud shapes on wax paper with your fingers.

**Thursday:**

Pick a starry night to sit outside and watch the sky. What shapes do you see in the stars? Do you see in any falling stars? What do you think about when looking at the night sky?

Check out a book from the library on the night sky and learn about the different constellations and falling stars.

**Friday:**

Watch for an animal, bird, or insect on your nature walk. You might have to stand or sit still for awhile before seeing anything. What are they doing? Do you think it knows you are watching?

What would you say to it if you could talk to the creature? What do you think it would say back to you?

**Saturday:**

Start a journal of your own celebrations. Try to be more observant of what goes on around you, especially in nature. Find special events and observations to write in your journal. Draw sketches of the observations in your journal or take pictures of them and post them in your journal.

**Other ideas:**

Give your child their own calendar and have them mark special observations on the appropriate day. Teach them how to use a calendar and how to look forward to special family celebrations.



## UPCOMING @SEA PODCASTS

**April 19th** Blair Lee and Sam Cook chat with guest Brett Kennedy, an admissions professional with over 25 years of experience in both big public schools and small private schools, about homeschooling to college.

**May 3rd** Kat Hutcheson and Sam Cook chat with guest Amir Nathoo, Co-Founder and CEO of both Outschool and Trigger.io about the changing face of education.



## Don't miss last week's episode of @SEA - The Rise of Black Homeschoolers: An Interview with Alycia Wright

A conversation about culturally relevant education, racism, and creating a space for children of color in the homeschool community.

Our hosts start off this interview by asking about Alycia's co-op, one which she started specifically to create a space for children of color.

Alycia then talks about what led her to leave her position as a public school teacher and homeschool her children. This leads to a discussion on the many reasons the number of homeschooling families of color is rising, including, but not limited to, the racism and inequalities seen in brick-and-mortar schools and the lack of an accurate narrative in curricula and educational materials.

A question about secular academics from Blair and a question about including ancient Africa in history from Sam bring us to a rich conversation about racism in educational materials; the importance of including the presence, contributions, and voices of people of color; and how the intentional whitewashing of history upholds white supremacy in society.

So what is working for the kids in Alycia's co-op? Alycia talks classes, field trips, and recommends educational materials! The impact of creating a culturally relevant education & homeschool community, why it matters and advice that might help you create the community you want & need. Alycia talks about making intentional choices, putting in the time, getting out of your comfort zone, and growing authentic relationships; plus shares a personal and meaningful story from her childhood. (Click on the photo above to get to the show notes.)

# Could Your Homeschooled Child Have Dyslexia? Dysgraphia? Dyscalculia?

By Pam Ragland

Dyslexia and its related issues (Dysgraphia – trouble writing, Dyscalculia – trouble with basic math) are on the rise. In my group for homeschooled kids with special needs, I estimate AT LEAST 25% of the kids have Dyslexia. And the trouble is – we as homeschool parents and teachers are not always equipped to identify and help our kids in this area. This could really delay and prolong your child being at their “grade level” -- or even graduating.

Many parents are familiar with the most classic sign of Dyslexia – kids who reverse certain letters when they write. (Technically also called Dysgraphia when it involves writing.) But – only 20% of kids actually reverse letters. As a parent with two kids who have Dyslexia / Dysgraphia / Dyscalculia myself – I can tell you the other 80% are so much harder to identify. This often results in kids getting further and further “behind” for literally years. Whether you unschool or not – eventually your child will need to graduate, and likely to be prepared for higher learning. Reading, writing, and math are basic skills to survive in life—not options. And if your child has Dyslexia – your child needs specialized teaching methods. Common Core will not do.

So, the first battle is even recognizing there may be a problem, if your child does not reverse some of their letters. But, I have also found nearly all (or perhaps all) kids with Dyslexia have an underlying “processing” issue. That is, they may hear or see just fine – but the brain is not interpreting and translating the information accurately or quickly. These are kids who you may, for example, tell three things to do – and they barely remember one. (I have a whole list of symptoms to look for in my free Facebook group, link at the end.)

Worse – due to the processing issues, many of these kids do not learn well in an online environment – which is all the rage especially in homeschooling. They need a “multisensory” approach to learning.





## What do I look for?

Knowing the whole picture is necessary to identifying the curriculum methods that will actually work. I often see desperate parents who try different kinds of curriculum, hoping it will work. But if it's not designed for Dyslexia, it usually is so much of a struggle it just makes things worse. Then, depending on the underlying processing issues – only certain methods will work. So please – avoid “trying something” because your friend uses it. Until you know the whole picture, you can't tell if it will work for your child.

Most kids with “processing” issues – which always seems to coexist with some kind of dyslexia – are highly intelligent. In recent years, this category of children has gotten the label “2E” or “Twice Exceptional”. Meaning they are very smart – often gifted, actually – something requiring more challenging work to begin with. Yet, they also are very often behind – and sometimes literally years behind their peers – in basic skills (reading, writing, math). Yet - they can excel at higher level math, which is confusing. And challenging--since most higher level math uses basic skills. Most of these kids are also very creative – often exceptionally talented at music, art, and/or other creative pursuits.

So – imagine their frustration at knowing they are smart, yet not being able to demonstrate it. This does a number on self-esteem. This can also impact behavior. I have seen kids with Dyslexia protest work, homework, reading, and/or explode at home or in class. And rarely does the school see this as a possible sign their learning needs are not being met. This makes it more vital to identify these issues as early as possible.



The easiest way to get a feel for what to look for is with a few case studies.

**A's story.** A is a 12 year old female in 6th grade who is extremely creative. Her mom has “unschooled” her all her life. She struggles with reading, but it's been OK as she was choosing other things she is interested in. When she is in any in person class, sometimes she just zones out. When her mom reads words to her she sometimes hears the wrong word. She has complained that when she reads the words they “wiggle”. Her reading is at a Kindergarten level.

When we did the right assessments, we discovered she has Dyslexia, Auditory Processing Disorder (APD), and Visual Processing Disorder (VPD). She actually has a timing issue, where both sound and vision input are delayed – so she sees and hears things wrong. Since A is in a public charter for homeschool, I helped get her an IEP, where she is now receiving proper specialized reading instruction for Dyslexia, along with therapy for APD and VPD (called Vision Therapy.)

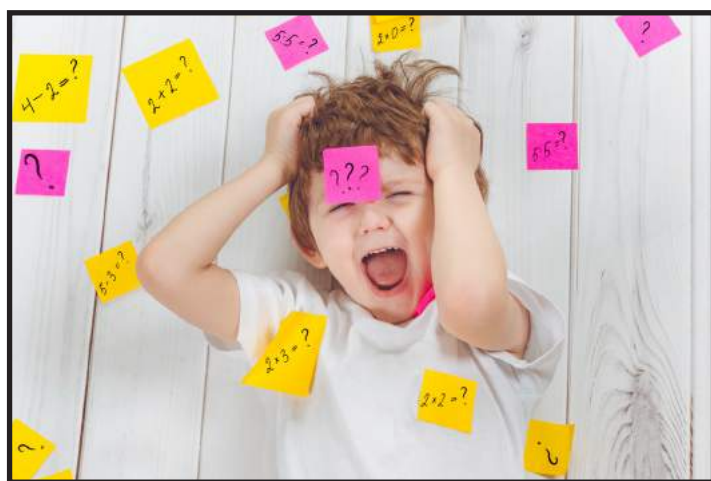
**O's story.** O is an 11 year old male in 5th grade. His family has no TV, so they read instead. O can read and comprehend (it seems like) – but his writing is very hard to read. It takes him a long time to write anything, so he avoids it. He produces very little writing with great effort. As a result – the family has focused on other ways to learn that exclude writing.



When we did the right assessments, we discovered O has Dyslexia, Dysgraphia, no APD (unusual)--but he does have Visual Processing Disorder (VPD). Since O is in a public charter for homeschool, I helped get him an IEP, where he is now receiving proper specialized reading instruction for Dyslexia, which also benefits his writing, along with therapy for VPD (Vision Therapy AKA VT), and Occupational Therapy (called OT). OT helps O hold the pencil properly, helps his body work properly for education, and also with organization.

When writing suffers, you should always suspect reading. Fluent reading is a key to fluent writing. And yes – you can have Dyslexia even if your reading is normal! Because O's family does SO MUCH reading, this has helped some with these skills. It may surprise people that this child still needs to work on fluent reading and comprehension -- but again, your child first needs to read fluently to write fluently.

**M's story.** M is a 9 year old Autistic male in 2nd grade. He struggles with reading, writing, and math. In fact – basic math seems like a foreign language. He simply does not get the concept of a number. He had severe behavior issues when in his regular public school SDC (Special Day Class). Once he came home, his behavior mostly calmed down – until he started attending classes in a large room with other kids. This is yet another face of Dyslexia – math and behavior issues.



When we did the right assessments, we discovered M has Dyslexia, Dysgraphia, Dyscalculia, is hard of hearing, likely has severe APD (which cannot be determined until his hearing issues are addressed), and Visual Processing Disorder (VPD). He also needs OT, speech, social skills, ABA, and a BIP (Behavior Intervention Plan.)

So you can see – Dyslexia and its resulting cousins Dysgraphia and Dyscalculia shows up in many forms.

## **I think my child may have Dyslexia - now what?**

As a homeschooler, you have options!! If your child needs help to close the gap between their abilities and present school performance – they need an Individual Education Plan (IEP) or Individual Service Plan (ISP - the private school version of an IEP.)



The easiest option is a homeschool charter (public school), where you can request an “evaluation” for special education services, in all areas of concern. If you are homeschooling privately, you can make the same request of your home public school. Except, you will tell them you are requesting an assessment under “child find” and ultimately want an ISP.

Request the areas you believe should be assessed, and you should also evaluate symptoms of auditory and visual processing (see FILES in my FB group...it’s free!)

An LEA is the entity responsible for special ed services for your charter or home school. This is usually the district, but in the case of charters they are often their own LEA. The district/LEA will do their evaluation, and then make a determination of whether or not your child “qualifies” for an IEP. This will be done via an “IEP determination meeting”. If you disagree with their determination, you are entitled to an assessment with providers of your own choosing, which your LEA pays for. This is called an Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE).

The contents of these plans are a whole other beast. If you are offered an IEP or ISP, important elements include the right methods to teach reading, which must be multi-sensory, and appropriate therapy for any processing issues. These methods are rarely a standard curriculum. But we could talk about plans all day long. We will save that topic for another day!!!

For now – be on the lookout for signs of Dyslexia and its cousins Dysgraphia, and Dyscalculia. I hope this article has helped you know when to get help, and what kind of help to get.

You are welcome to join my free Facebook group, where we discuss these and other issues regarding homeschool IEP's, 504's and other questions around homeschooling special needs kids. You will have access to many files with free resources. This is a parents only (no school or vendor employee) group.



**Feel free to join and tell your friends!!**

<https://www.Facebook.com/groups/HomeschoolIEP>

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**ONLINE TALKS**

**WITH SEA HOMESCHOOLERS**

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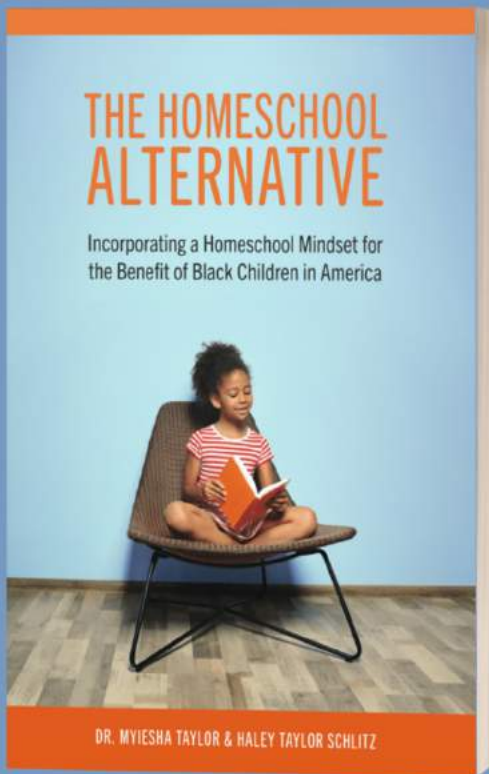
*OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE SEA HOMESCHOOLERS WEBSITE*

<https://seahomeschoolers.com/membership/>

**SEA HOMESCHOOLERS**  
An Evolution in Homeschooling  
Secular, Eclectic, Academic

# Parents, are you frustrated with your child's school?

Learn how you can take control of their education with this guide to homeschooling.



Traditional schooling systems are proving to be suboptimal learning environments for many students of color. Black parents bear witness to the myriad of problems their children face at school and are becoming increasingly frustrated with the inability to implement positive and constructive change. As a Black mother, Myiesha experienced this first-hand. As she noticed her daughter, Haley, lose her passion for learning in public school, she made the bold decision to simply pull her out and homeschool her. Homeschooling is fraught with myths and misconceptions and with this how-to guide, memoir fusion, Haley and Myiesha offer insight and enlighten readers on the “real deal” of homeschooling. Primarily that homeschooling is a mindset—a mindset that can be incorporated into all aspects of child-rearing. There are many options and opportunities to incorporate a homeschooling mindset, even if a family utilizes the public school system.



HALEY TAYLOR SCHLITZ



DR. MYIESHA TAYLOR



[www.thehomeschoolalternative.com](http://www.thehomeschoolalternative.com)

When school seemed to stop working for her daughter, Myiesha Taylor pulled her out (with no information!) and found her way in the land of being a black homeschooling family. Many questions later, they decided to write it all down so that other families wouldn't have to make the same mistakes they did. Haley is a university senior right now and has received acceptances from 9 law schools at the age of 16! She accepted the offer from SMU Dedman School of Law. An interview with Haley is linked below.

# SET THEIR PASSION FREE

By Sharon  
Anderson



The combination of a child's passion and project based learning can be a powerful educational tool. For these three, cosplay was the perfect vehicle. They had binge watched all the episodes, started fan pages, created memes... now what? A local Anime Expo provided the answer plus a weekend of roleplay, socializing and cosplay fun!

A few months ahead of time, they chose their characters. Then it was time for research! Youtube and the fan community provided tons of reference and helpful hints, tricks and methods for creating their costumes. They planned, designed and made decisions.



Then they got to work. Base costume clothing was purchased, then custom painted to match the plans. Gloves were created from scratch with custom patterns for each character. Shoes were masked and spray painted, with a few experiments to determine the proper type of paint. Custom parts were fabricated from scratch out of EVA foam. Patterns were created, foam was measured, cut and heat shaped. The parts were meticulously glued together, sanded, coated in Plasti Dip and painted. Velcro was attached to the foam and sewn to the fabric for easy assembly. Wigs were purchased, custom cut, then styled and make-up was chosen to get the perfect look.



The big date arrived and all their hard work paid off! They were a huge hit and had a great time showing off their creations. This project took them on a tremendous learning journey and each of them gained knowledge and skills they didn't have and were eager & excited to learn.





THE UNSCHOOL DAD

**WE TEACH CHILDREN  
TO COLOR INSIDE  
THE LINES, AND  
THEN EXPECT  
ADULTS TO THINK  
OUTSIDE THE BOX.  
-FRANK SONNENBERG  
@THEUNSCHOOLDAD**

# HOMESCHOOL PROJECTS!

Show us what your homeschooler has been learning!

Send submissions to [editor@seahomeschoolers.com](mailto:editor@seahomeschoolers.com)





# Educational links from NASA

[NASA Kids Club](#) - Games, mazes, and printables for grades K-4.

[NASA Wavelength](#) - A digital collection of earth and space science resources for educators of all levels – from elementary to college, to out-of-school programs.

[App Development Challenge](#) - provides an opportunity for middle and/or high school students to demonstrate the practice of coding and app development.

[Contests and Things to Do](#) - Current contests and opportunities for students grades K-8.

[High School](#) - Info and activities for students in grades 9-12.

[NASA STEM Engagement](#) - STEM programs and projects from NASA.

[Spot the Station](#) - Discover when the International Space Station will pass directly over you and how to notice it.

[NASA from A to Z](#) - an A to Z list of NASA websites for educators.

# Vegan Chili

After much experimentation, Sharon Anderson created this Vegan Chili for her allergy sensitive friends. It's gotten rave reviews from kids and adults alike. (Unless they don't like beans. lol) If you prefer chili with some meat in it, try adding diced ham, it complements the chili beautifully.

## Ingredients

1 Large Onion, diced  
3tsp Minced Garlic  
2T Olive or Vegetable Oil  
3/4c Celery, diced  
1 large Sweet Potato, diced  
1 medium Yellow Squash, diced (optional)  
4 16oz cans Chili Beans (Mild or Hot)  
2 15oz cans Tri-Bean Blend (Kidney, Pinto, Black) drained  
1 28oz can Crushed Tomato  
1T Dried Parsley  
1/2T Chili Powder  
1 tsp Salt  
2tsp Dried Basil  
2tsp Dried Oregano  
1/2tsp Cocoa Powder  
1/2tsp Ground Black Pepper  
A shake of Hot Sauce or Sriracha



## Instructions

1. Saute Onion in oil until tender.
2. Add Garlic & Celery and saute for a few more minutes.
3. Add all remaining ingredients.
4. Simmer on low, stirring occasionally to keep from burning. Once sweet potatoes are tender, chili is ready. (Approx. 30 minutes.)
5. This recipe refrigerates and reheats well. It's great to prep ahead for a simple dinner or some quickly microwavable lunches.

# UPCOMING SEA APPEARANCES

**April 11th** - 2:00 to 3:30 - Blair Lee at the National Science Teachers Association National Convention in St. Louis, MO: **Three-Dimensional Learning through Three-Dimensional Modeling: Make scientific theories accessible to all learners by pairing short lessons with scientific models students can construct themselves.** Join in to make simple 3-D models that make sense of more complex scientific phenomena. Leave with modeling and project ideas you can use in your next class.

**April 22ND** - 8pm EST/ 5pm PST - Blair Lee is partnering with The Teacher Institute for Evolutionary Science for a free webinar: **Let's Talk Climate on Earth Day Webinar: Climate change... We hear about it, but it can be complicated, overwhelming, alarming and sometimes divisive.** This Earth Month, Blair Lee, author of *The Science of Climate Change: A Hands-On Course* & trained Climate Reality Leader will share basic information about the science and answer questions such as: "Is it really happening?" "How do we know?" "Must we..., will we..., can we change?" We will also discuss how to create a climate action plan for shrinking your carbon footprint as a way to help combat global warming and climate change. Register now at [www.crowdcast.io/e/lets-talk-climate-on](http://www.crowdcast.io/e/lets-talk-climate-on)

**May 2-5th** - CHN Family Expo in Garden Grove, CA: Join Blair, Kat, Sam & SEA Homeschoolers at CHN. Stop by our vendor booth, tell us you saw this & be entered into a drawing for some free SEA Swag. Our talks at CHN:

- Friday 1pm - Project-Based Learning: Creating a Modern Education of Curiosity, Innovation, and Impact (Blair Lee and Sam Cook) See the full description [HERE](#).
- Friday 4pm - Homeschooling High School? How It Can Be Alternative & Still Get Your Kids into College (Blair Lee) See the full description [HERE](#).
- Saturday 10:30am - Playing School: Bridging Play and Education for Preschoolers & Kindergartners with High Academic Needs (Kat Hutcheson) See the full description [HERE](#).
- Saturday 4pm - The Art of Storytelling (Kat Hutcheson) See the full description [HERE](#).
- Sunday 9am - SHTEAM: Why History Matters in a STEAM Education (Sam Cook) See the full desc [HERE](#).

We are a community-focused group. It is the goal of SEA Homeschoolers to build a strong, healthy, and vibrant network for secular homeschooling families, educators, and business people.

I want to personally thank you for being an important part of the SEA Homeschoolers community,

Blair Lee, founder of Secular, Eclectic, Academic Homeschoolers

If you have any ideas, questions, or comments, please email us at [editor@seahomeschoolers.com](mailto:editor@seahomeschoolers.com).

