

LDA
Learning Disabilities Association

4156 Library Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15234
(412) 341-1515

Email: info@ldaamerica.org
Website: www.ldaamerica.org

LDA's Mission: To create opportunities for success for all individuals affected by learning disabilities and to reduce the incidence of learning disabilities in future generations.

2012 LDA International Conference

Chicago, IL
February 22-25

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 1260
Pittsburgh, PA

LDA Officers and Directors Elected

The following officers and directors were elected by the Assembly of Delegates during their Annual Meeting on Thursday, February 24, at the Hyatt Regency Riverfront, Jacksonville, Florida.

All officers, except the LDA President, are elected for a one-year term. The term of the President is two years. Pat Lillie, LDA President, was elected in 2010 and will serve until February 2012. Immediate Past President Connie Parr, Illinois, remains on the Executive Committee until February 2012, and B.J. Wiemer, Missouri, was elected by the Board of Directors to be their representative on the Executive Committee.

First Vice President

Sharon Bloechle, Nebraska

Second Vice President

Sandy Cort, Maine

Secretary

Linda Modenbach, Oklahoma

Treasurer

Ed Schlitt, Michigan

The following individuals were elected to the Board of Directors for three-year terms: Katie Cyphers, Georgia; Vicki Goshon, Iowa; Ann Whitten, South Carolina; and B.J. Wiemer, Missouri. Lori Parks, Michigan, was selected by the State Presidents to serve as their representative on the Board of Directors.

HOME SCHOOLING

continued from page 13

schooling a child with learning disabilities. Amber Basener said, "The biggest thing is being able to match her gifting. She's advanced in math and science. If she was in school, she would be defined by the fact that she is a poor reader." Basener uses science and math curriculum above grade level to accommodate their daughter's giftedness. They also find social benefits to homeschooling: "She is very confident, very outgoing. She doesn't think of herself as disabled. Her self-esteem is intact despite difficult learning experiences."

Robin LaRosa of Virginia appreciates that by not being in school, her daughter doesn't face any teachers who don't understand learning disabilities. "Sometimes it is misunderstood as misbehavior, other times kids just get lost. But I can move as slowly or as quickly as necessary for her." Susan Harris saw other benefits. "There is less distraction. He's not made fun of. Peer bullying can be huge, even in special education."

Parents make extraordinary sacrifices to help children learn, but many do not realize that they might educate a child with learning disabilities at home. Three mothers said homeschooling reduced their stress. Three others, who trained in special education and now homeschool, were eager to tell other dedicated parents, "You can do this."

Even parents who do not homeschool can use Saturdays and summers to follow the example of these parent educators. Such a mother was Desiree Childress, who used her training with the Institute for Multi-Sensory Education (IMSE) to help her child after school.

When I brought this [training] home, it was like I opened the floodgate. My child started blending, reading, and spelling! We

had a lot of challenges to overcome, such as my son's vision, executive functioning disorder, sensory, dyscalculia, and dysgraphia. Nothing happens overnight, but I knew I was finally going the right path. I tailored the public school program for him, but within three months, I knew I was the one who could help him more and brought him home full time to homeschool. We used it intensely everyday in the beginning. I continue to use Orton-Gillingham today, but many skills have been mastered.

Trainers can also learn from homeschoolers. First these parent-teachers embody reasons more people need MSL training. They are a small fraction of the number that could be trained. Training providers should help homeschoolers and other parents become aware of how an MSL approach differs from traditional instruction. ASDEC's one-day workshops with the Siena School in Maryland have helped many parents, and persuaded several to take more intensive training.

Such workshops, which are offered at a discount for members of the local LDA chapter, have also led homeschoolers to join LDA. Other chapters can expand their membership with similar discounts, and by advertising workshops and meetings to the homeschool community. LDA chapters offer many resources that homeschoolers would appreciate.

As parents and teachers get to know these parent-teachers, all three groups can benefit by sharing resources, experience, and their common passion to help children learn.

Kathy Kuhl, the author of *Homeschooling Your Struggling Learner*, helps parents teach exceptional children at home. LearnDifferently.com