

## Evaluations

Evaluations are considered valid for three years. (If you plan a gap year, schedule accordingly.) If an evaluation is beyond your budget, get your student screened. Also there are free home screenings at:

- [SpedHomeschool.com](https://SpedHomeschool.com)
- [Social skills assessment at TheOTtoolbox.com](https://TheOTtoolbox.com)
- and for HSLDA members at HSLDA.org.

But an expert who meets your student will discern much more, so consult one. For example, Laurie Chuba, [LearningIntegrations.com](https://LearningIntegrations.com), pediatric OT in Herndon VA. An OT can screen for many issues, as can a psychologist. (See [my 2-part interview beginning here.](#))

## General

- To understand different learning challenges, and diagnosis and treatment, read *The Mislabeled Child* by Brock Eide, MD, and Fernette Eide, MD (These doctors homeschooled their kids.)
- SPEDHomeschool has many great resources including the Homeschool High School Checklist.  
<https://spedhomeschool.com/high-school-help/>
- HSLDA's special needs pages <https://hsllda.org/teaching-my-kids/special-needs> and also see their pages on homeschooling through high school.
- *The Motivation Breakthrough* by Richard Lavoie, on how to motivate students.
- Help your child live a richer life. Read Cheryl Swope, *Simply Classical: A Beautiful Education for Any Child*, even if you don't plan to provide a classical education.
- Chris Dendy, *Teaching Teens with ADD, ADHD, and Executive Function Deficits*.
- *Smart but Scattered Teens* by Richard Guare, Ph.D, Peg Dawson, EdD, and Colin Guare.
- My blog series "Helping Teens Overcome Learning Challenges" includes many resources, [Learndifferently.com/2013/01/08/helping-teens-overcome-learning-challenges/](https://Learndifferently.com/2013/01/08/helping-teens-overcome-learning-challenges/)

- *Learning A Living: A Guide to Planning Your Career and Finding a Job for People with Learning Disabilities, Attention Deficit Disorder, and Dyslexia*, by Dale S. Brown, available used, [reviewed here](#).

**Assistive technology** means tools to help those with disabilities.

- Virginia's T/TAC, Training and Technical Assistance Centers, help professionals and families of children and youth with disabilities with a range of T/TAC centers lend out tech for you to try, provide training and more. They are located across the state. Similar federally funded centers exist in other states.
- Joan Green is a great source for families. She informs and advises on choosing and using assistive technology to help your teen (or any age), wherever they are bound. She's an expert in helping people 1) get more out of the tech they already own, 2) find bargains on tech to help with many different needs. She keeps up with PC, Mac, Google, Android, and iOS. She appreciates homeschoolers. Visit [innovativespeech.com](http://innovativespeech.com) to learn more, watch short helpful videos, sign up for webinars, or set up a free consultation. She's the author of the *Ultimate Guide to Assistive Technology in Special Education*.

**Transition Plan: draft one by age 16, better at age 14 or earlier. You can always revise.** [Download sample transition plan from Understood.org](#)  
Consider including a gap year with specific, measurable goals.

### Life skills

- *Steps to Independence* by Dale S. Brown, downloadable free [here](#).
- Chris Dendy and Ruth Hughes, [Launching into Young Adulthood with ADHD... Ready or Not!](#)
- My blog series on [teaching life skills begins here](#). The later posts focus on teens.

### Social Skills

- John Gottman, PhD., *Raising an Emotionally Intelligent Child: The Heart of Parenting*. Emotional intelligence is the ability to recognize and respond appropriately to emotion in ourselves and others.
- Ken Sande, author of *The Peacemaker*, offers online training on relational wisdom, [rw360.org](http://rw360.org)

- Temple Grandin and Sean Barron’s book *The Unwritten Rules of Social Relationships*.
- Jed Baker, *The Social Skills Picture Book for High School and Beyond*.

## Entrepreneurship [MicrobusinessForTeens.com](https://MicrobusinessForTeens.com)

### Careers in the Trades

- *Blazing New Homeschool Trails: Educating and Launching Teens with Developmental Disabilities* by Natalie Vecchione and Cindy LaJoy.
- [BlueCollarHomeschool.com](https://BlueCollarHomeschool.com) is their Facebook group.

### College search and preparation

- For all parents of teens considering college: Carol Reynolds, Ph.D., [Why Freshmen Fail and How to Avoid It](#). Don’t wait until senior year to read this with your teen.
- Hal and Melanie Young, *Help is on the Way*, on how to get accommodations for college boards and college, [reviewed here](#).
- Marybeth Kravets and Imy F. Wax, [K&W Guide to College for Students with Learning Differences](#), 16<sup>th</sup> ed. published 2023.
- College accommodations and self-advocacy skills, my [two-part blog post, is here](#) and [here](#).
- College board website’s special needs section, Services for Students with Disabilities. <https://accommodations.collegeboard.org>
- For help choosing a college, consider hiring or at least learn from these experts. Both give webinars; I link to one sample below:
  - [Bass Educational Services](#) (BES). Get to know them by watching BES’s presentation, [“College and Postsecondary Education Options.”](#)
  - [College Consulting Collaborative](#). Get to know them CCC’s presentation, [“College Readiness for Students Who Learn Differently.”](#)
- Peter and Pamela Wright are lawyers who’ve dedicated their lives to helping parents and students with disabilities navigate special

education and ADA law. Here at [Wrightslaw.com](https://www.wrightslaw.com) is a helpful introduction to College Accommodations and the law.

- In January 2024, The Lab School of Washington hosted [“Preparing for College When Your child has ADHD or Learning Differences.”](#)
- The Lab School’s [list of colleges and support program services](#)
- List of recommended [accommodations letter to colleges, which you could adapt](#) for your homeschooled student. Be ready to provide evidence (e.g. current neuro-psychological evaluation) to support your recommendations.
- [“Strategies to help gifted autistic students succeed in college.”](#)
- [“The New Digital SAT Demystified: What You Need to Know,” with Alex Chip of Top Score Education,](#) hosted by NoVaDC chapter of CHADD in January 2024.

### **Awarding credits to students with learning disabilities**

To quote Faith Berens, HSLDA special needs consultant in HSLDA’s Homeschooling Your Struggling Learner Newsletter, 4/14/11:

*Q: How can I give my child high school credit for a course, such as math or history, if he is working or reading “below age/grade level”?*

*A: Struggling students, as well as functionally disabled students, are given high school credit and graduate from public high schools all the time. Therefore, in special cases, one should apply similar criteria to homeschool students who have a documented learning disability. For example, if a 10th-grade student is capable of doing only 6th-grade-level math, and that is truly his or her capacity according to the other conditions noted below, then he or she may be awarded a high school credit in math for completing the 6th-grade material.*

#### *Conditions*

- *If the student is in the 9th grade or above, and*
- *The student has been diagnosed as having a learning difficulty which has a documented history, and*
- *The student is performing at or near his or her capacity for learning in that subject, and*

- *The student is showing that this year's work is a progression from last year's work, and*
- *The student has completed all the requirements of the course to the satisfaction of the parent, and*
- *The work (or number of hours) have been documented to your satisfaction (120–180 hours).*

*Then that student should be granted a high school credit for the course. Another example is a student who is reading below high school level. You can use adapted materials, such as high interest/low readability materials, assistive technology such as print recognition software or reading pens, as well as books on audio for the literature and still grant the student high school credit.*

*In these special circumstances, we are not attempting to lower high school standards or requirements, we are simply trying to make appropriate accommodations (and make the content accessible) for the student with a learning disability or special need. The goal is to help them attain their full, God-given potential and to make sure they are working up to their highest level of capability.*

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