

Shurley English Homeschooling: A Great Program for Children with Special Learning Needs

By Mary Fratianni
NYS LEAH Special Needs Coordinator

When someone asks me to recommend a homeschool language arts program for a special needs child, I can recommend only one, Shurley English Homeschooling. Over 7 years ago, at a monthly homeschool support meeting, homeschool moms were sharing about which curriculums worked and which did not. One veteran homeschool mom shared about the Shurley English Homeschooling program. She had two daughters with special learning needs. She had tried various other language arts programs without success prior to using the Shurley English Homeschooling program. Prior to purchasing the Shurley English Homeschooling program, she spoke at length to a Customer Service Representative. The representative asked many questions about the level at which the children were performing. Based upon their conversation, the representative suggested an appropriate level for the children to begin the program. At the homeschool meeting, the mom brought in a HUGE dry erase board and proceeded to demonstrate how to classify a sentence that was about twenty words long. When she was finished, every jaw in the room that was on the floor. Yes, we all learned grammar in “public” school, but did we really learn it?

Generally, many teachers these days, public and private, do not spend much time on the mechanics of classifying sentences, they focus more on getting the words on the page. This is a huge mistake. If a child does not understand what makes a sentence complete, they cannot write a sentence that makes sense, and they cannot communicate effectively. This is especially true with children who have expressive language problems. The beauty of the Shurley English Homeschooling program is that it teaches children to ask questions about each word in a sentence so that they see how all the parts fit together. The “see it, hear it, say it, and do it” activities work for all learning styles (auditory, visual, and hands-on). The parts of speech are taught through jingles that a child can easily learn. Material is repeated in a consistent manner to make learning a breeze and to attain mastery. The program also includes vocabulary and writing sections. All types of writing are taught in a highly structured and easy to learn fashion. Learning to write has never been so easy! The teacher’s manual is a blessing for a busy homeschool mom. All the mom has to do is to read right out of the book. Brenda Shurley has scripted it perfectly!

If you choose to use this program, it is well worth purchasing the “Kit” and “Practice Booklet” for the level you plan on teaching. The kit includes the Teacher’s Manual, Student Workbook, and Introductory CD. The Practice Booklet contains the practice sentences that the child classifies with each lesson.

Children with special learning needs need clear instructions, well-structured lessons, and repetition. Shurley English Homeschooling provides all three. Please note that levels 2 through 7 always include a review of the prior level’s lessons. This is important for children with special learning needs as they continue to receive reinforcement of concepts learned. Generally, the Shurley English Homeschooling program is more advanced than a regular public school language arts program. If you are unsure of which level to purchase, speak with a Shurley English Customer Service Representative. They have lots of experience and can provide you with guidance in choosing the appropriate level for your child.