

cost around \$2000 for a complete neuropsychological evaluation.) Your health insurance may help. Some psychologists will be willing to give only one or two tests, though it is better to get a complete evaluation. Or, get your HMO to test for ADD, which is a medical condition.

Take your journal and samples of the child's work along to the psychologist. Written logs and journals are better than vague descriptions. When you meet to hear his report, come with questions on how to apply the findings to your homeschool. Ask him to recommend books and resources.

EDUCATE YOURSELF

Meanwhile, learn about different teaching methods, curricula, and other resources. Dr. Joe Sutton told my friend after diagnosing her son with ADD, "You aren't going to change the way his brain works; instead, you're going to have to change the way you teach!"

HEAV's bookstore (www.heav.org) has excellent resources: Joyce Herzog's *Choosing and Using Curriculum* and *Learning In Spite of Labels*; Sharon Hensley's *Home Schooling Children with Special Needs*; Christine Field's *Homeschooling the Challenging Child*; Carol Barnier's *How to Get Your Child off the Refrigerator and on to Learning*; and Dr. Joe & Connie Sutton's *Strategies for Struggling Learners*. These will help you develop goals and a plan.

Also, look at Judith Munday's website at www.hishelpin-school.com ("Educational Plans"), or obtain the recording of her workshop, "Preparing the SEP for Your Child," from the 2005 HEAV convention (www.best-christian-conferences.com).

The *Virginia Homeschool Manual's* section on special needs includes early warning signs for various disabilities, specific chapters on each type of learning disability, help for behavior problems, teaching strategies, tips on making an individualized plan of education, discussion on legal issues, and a huge resource section.

Also, check my website, www.kuhl-us.com/homeschool, for reviews of books and more resources.

GET HELP

Next, hire a special-needs consultant—a special-education teacher—to meet with you a few times a year to suggest approaches and materials and to review your plans and progress. Be sure this teacher is open to homeschooling. Check the HEAV listings on the website (<http://www.heav.org/testing/counselingtestingtutoringresources.html>), and check with local public and private schools, and with HSLDA's special-needs department for recommendations. Go to www.hslda.org/strugglinglearner.

MAINTAIN PERSPECTIVE

Finally, all the good advice for homeschooling goes double for homeschooling a child with special needs: focus on character, praise perseverance, teach him to enjoy learning, exercise, laugh, guard your marriage, take time off, and enjoy your child.

Kathy Kuhl, a veteran homeschooling mother in Herndon, teaches, writes, consults, and gives talks. She earned teaching certificates in secondary mathematics and English at William & Mary. Read and learn more at www.kuhl-us.com/homeschool. Write her at learn.differently@yahoo.com.

*Yvonne Bunn from HEAV offers this additional comment: Public schools offer free special-needs testing, which parents may request once. Based on an initial review, school personnel will determine if special-needs testing is necessary. After the special-needs evaluation, a parent may refuse public school services. If a parent makes that decision, school officials will prepare a summary of the evaluation results for the parent to use in another educational setting. New federal laws prohibit public school officials from harassing those who do not desire public school services.



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