

Blog Webliography For: Parents/Guardians that have Children with Disabilities

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Introduction

The following presentation is a curated collection of the top parent/guardian blogs/webpages providing support to other parents/guardians that have children with disabilities. In the following slides you will see blogs based on the experiences of parents/guardians with children with: autism, physically limited abilities, down syndrome, cerebral palsy, dyslexia, attention deficit disorder (ADHD), blindness, and many other versions and degrees of the thirteen disabilities covered by IDEA (Lee, 2021). My hope is that the parents/guardians of the students I teach as an Education Specialist will benefit from the stories, tips, and insights found on all of these worthwhile blog pages. Many of the blog pages provide antidotal insights that are unique to the child, parent, or their family's experience, but these stories provide empathy and understanding to readers. The twelve blogs below help all, not just parents/guardians or their children the blog posts are about, understand the real life experiences of navigating life with disabilities as a caretaker of one with disabilities, and the processes followed to ensure children with disabilities get the best possible outcome from their educational experience. Perhaps one day, the parents/guardians of the children I work with, with disabilities, will write their story in a blog format inspiring others. Our specific school and community faces unique challenges with regards to rural communities and cultures. The need is great as I was unable to find many current blogs that address the unique experiences of our community of children with disabilities.

Blog One

Link: <http://havewheelchairwilltravel.net>

Description: We are a family sharing our travels, tips, and experiences here at Have Wheelchair Will Travel. While we have a focus on travel we know that travel is a 'sometimes' activity for most of us, so we share our day-to-day tips and other fun in between.

Recent Post: <https://havewheelchairwilltravel.net/sea-life-sydney-aquarium-accessible-dining-sydney/>



Blog Two

Link: <https://www.specialneedsjungle.com>

Description: Special Needs Jungle puts the parent first by providing them information, news, and special needs resources through opinions about Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND), education, health care plans including rare diseases and politics.

Recent Post: <https://www.specialneedsjungle.com/ombudsman-wider-powers-investigate-send-exclusions-schools/>

SPECIAL NEEDS JUNGLE

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS ♦ DISABILITY ♦ HEALTH CONDITIONS ♦ RARE DISEASE

Parent-led information,
resources and informed
opinion about children
and young people 0-25

Blog Three

Link: <https://www.parentingspecialneeds.org>

Description: Special Needs Magazine is an online magazine serving the Special Needs Community founded by parents of children with disabilities. The magazine style blog provides practical tips, life lessons, challenges and celebrating the joys of the gifts experienced in a family with a child with disabilities.

Recent Post: <https://www.parentingspecialneeds.org/article/what-siblings-would-like-parents-and-service-providers-to-know/>



Blog Four



Link: <https://blog.madeformovement.com>

Description: This blog highlights the different aspects of raising a child with physical disabilities and provides some unique advice for parents/guardians. Some key aspects discussed in the blog posts relate to: temporary and permanent impacts, physical capacity, mobility, health related implications, complex rehabilitation, and physical activity interventions.

Recent Post: <https://blog.madeformovement.com/why-early-intervention>

Blog Five

Link: <https://differentdream.com>

Description: Jolene Philo created this blog to share her story raising a son with special needs, and describes her blog as “for parents of children with special needs who need encouragement and comfort (Philo, 2021)”. She provides a great number of techniques and skills to use and teach in the process of raising a child with disability.

Recent Post: <https://differentdream.com/2021/12/resources-for-caregiving-parents-recommended-by-caregiving-parents/>



Blog Six

Link: <https://www.findingcoopersvoice.com>

Description: Kate wrote this blog to share her story about raising her son Cooper who is on the autism spectrum. She points out the scope that her son has impacted her life, and her family's life in every way. She points out that autism "is sad, funny, scary and heartbreaking, and most of all full of hope and love (Swenson, 2021)".

Recent Post: <https://www.findingcoopersvoice.com/2021/11/27/thats-autism/>



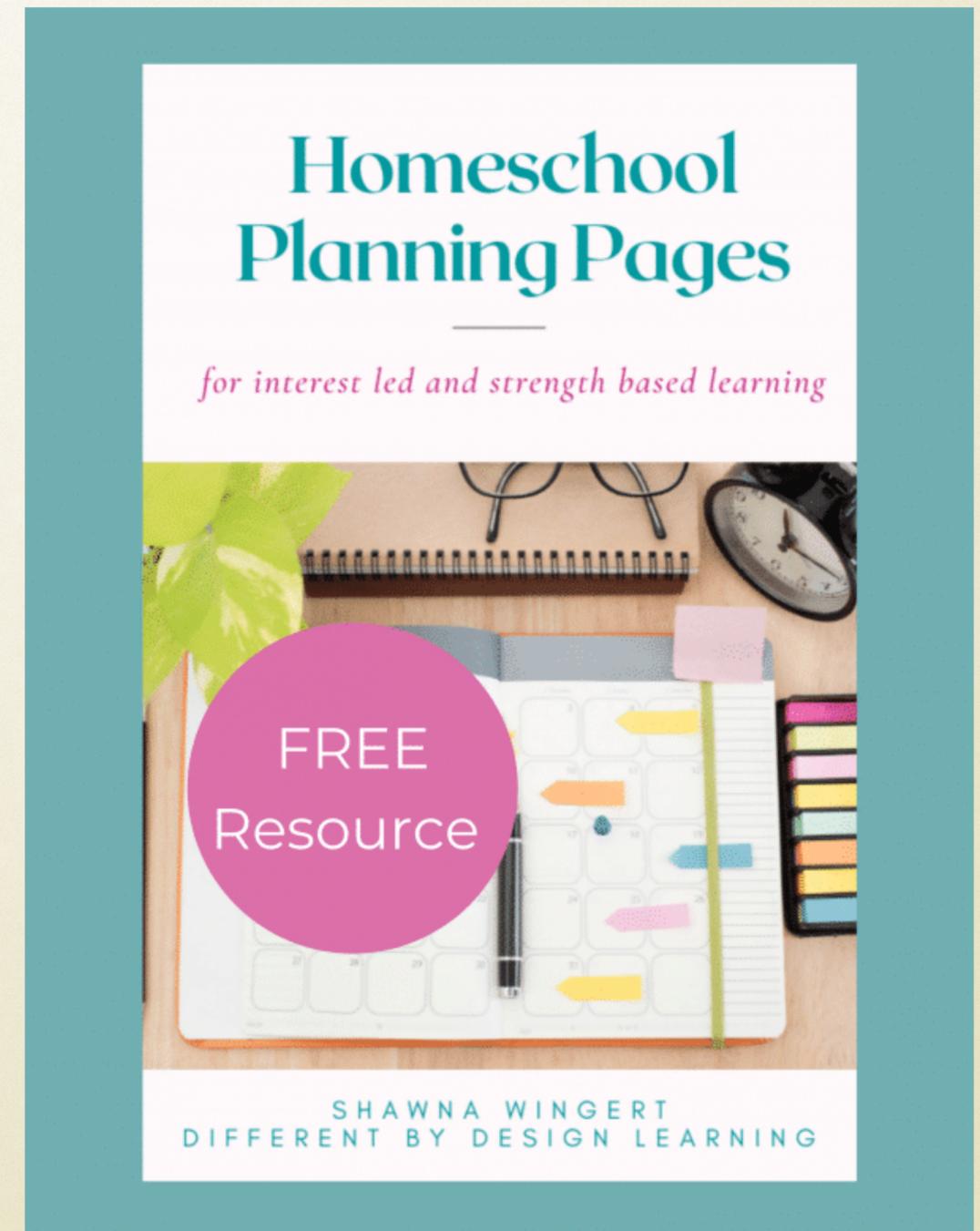
FINDING COOPER'S VOICE
The Secret World of Autism

Blog Seven

Link: <https://differentbydesignlearning.com>

Description: This blog addresses special needs home schooling and the mess that is motherhood of a child with disabilities. The goal of *Different By Design Learning* is to help others "feel a little lighter, more encouraged, and determined to live with hope" while raising a child with disabilities (Wingert, 2021).

Recent Post: <https://differentbydesignlearning.com/my-best-advice-for-helping-a-struggling-learner/>



Blog Eight



Link: <http://atypicalfamilia.com>

Description: One of the few blogs about a latin family and parent with a child with disabilities, this blog addresses parenting a child with autism, and includes awesome insights into how to manage travel, work, and school. Any reader of this blog will be pleasantly surprised at the openness and practical insights that can help when traveling, working, or teaching a child with a disability. Doing all of these things is possible with the unique hacks found in the blog posts on *Atypical Familia*.

Recent Post: <http://atypicalfamilia.com/love-you/>

Blog Nine

Link: <https://www.lovethatmax.com>

Description: From an unexpected turn during pregnancy when the blog post's founders son had a seizure at birth, *Love That Max* started. The story of Max's cerebral palsy and developmental delays is anything short of extraordinary. The additional insights and struggles/awakenings his mom has had over the years coming to terms with her son's disability is exceptional in many ways. Reading some of the posts on this blog page, you will find that in the darkest moments we realize our greatest power, opportunity, and purpose as a parent/guardian.

Recent Post: <https://www.lovethatmax.com/2021/12/the-disability-blogger-weekend-link-up.html>



Blog Ten



Link: <https://noahsdad.com>

Description: The picture to the left is taken at the site where a family restaurant was/is being built just a few months ago in Waco, Texas. The man in the middle is Noah's dad, and all employees will be people with disabilities. Noah, with down syndrome, is pictured in the front, and this blog is a must for any parent/guardian of a child with a disabilities. The blog shares facts about therapy resources, daily living, and touched me greatly as a father and teacher. Here is a father of a child with disabilities who is patient, insightful, full of possibility, and a true role model for his son.

Recent Post: <https://noahsdad.com/bitty-beau-coffee-waco/>

Blog Eleven

Link: <https://www.ellenstumbo.com>

Description: This blog discusses real life stories of faith, disability, parenting, adoption, and travel. The founder of the blog, picture to the right with her daughter, is an advocate and speaker for those with children with disabilities. She presents the Five Stages of Disability Attitudes, and provides training and skills to parents/guardians (Stumbo, 2016). Her unique perspective is priceless for all parents/guardians .

Recent Post: <https://www.ellenstumbo.com/parenting-disabled-kids-not-brave/>



Blog Twelve

Link: <http://www.especiallyben.com>

Description: Read a few of the blogs about Ben, pictured to the left, and you will realize anything is possible for a child with disabilities, a family with a member with disabilities, and with a little love and empathy growth is definitely possible. The parents of Ben created the blog too pas on the wisdom they have gained over the years raising their son.

Recent Post: <http://www.especiallyben.com/2021/02/catching-up-with-ben.html>



Conclusion

Sharing one's story is always a helpful healing process for the one sharing it, and a way to build community around a common cause like supporting children with disabilities. In this case, sharing the story of providing care to children with disabilities becomes a life lesson for all of us. One need just read one or two of the blog posts from any of the sites mentioned above to realize that living with, and raising a child with disabilities, is one of the most transformational experiences a parent/guardian will ever know. Often times we do not expect to need to raise a child with disabilities, but as a parent and Special Education Teacher, I know first hand there is no greater opportunity in anyones life to learn more about humanity than when helping a child with disabilities to grow. While curating these blogs for my parents/guardians, I found myself empathizing, coming to tears, and thinking how must my parents have felt raising me given I am on the autism spectrum? I dare say, the parents/guardians of my students with disabilities and I have an obligation to share our insights as the bloggers in this presentation have, because there is no one else with our exact same experiences that could greatly benefit all people who read, hear, and see our stories.

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