

There's No Comparison – Taking a Look at the Academic Levels of Your Children

Workshop Handout

Beverly Parrish

[www.learnyourway.biz](http://www.learnyourway.biz)

[learnyourway@yahoo.com](mailto:learnyourway@yahoo.com)

Resources to help you understand your kiddo!

Your Child's Strengths – Fox

Different – Clarkson

No Mind Left Behind – Cox

Smart but Scattered – Dawson

Different Learners – Healy

Bright Kids Who Can't Keep Up – Braaten

Boys and Girls Learn Differently – Gurian

Reset Your Child's Brain – Dunckley

What do I do Monday Resources

Study Skills

Chapter 5 in *Organizing the Disorganized Child* by Kutscher has some simple, effective, basic study skills. (The rest of the book is good, too!) Look for it at the library.

Language Arts

*Wordly Wise* or *Worldly Wise 3000*– use for vocabulary AND spelling words. Student interacts with same words in a variety of ways for one week. At the end of the week, spelling comes more naturally than by rote memorization – it's connected with the meaning of the words.

*Movies as Literature* by Kathryn Stout – explores literary terms via classic movies, rather than books.

For teens - *The Least You Should Know About English Writing Skills – Forms A, B, or C - Seventh Edition* by Paige Wilson (author of earlier editions is Teresa Glazier) Forget purchasing it new, and look for it used on Amazon. It is just exactly what the title says, and answers are included. The student could write the answers to most of the exercises in the book if desired. The focus is on minimum grammar skills and non-fiction writing. Written to be self-teaching.

Anthologies with classic stories are good for family read alouds too. Examples are William Bennet's *Moral Compass, Book of Virtues*, John McCain's *Character is Destiny, Classics to Read Aloud* by William Russell.

### Science

“*Exploring the World of...*” Series by Tiner– more narrative based than typical textbooks, so easier to read aloud.

*God's Design for Heaven & Earth* series by Answers In Genesis — despite its grade recommendations, it really just contains the essentials that a literate adult would know. Chapters are short and it's not juvenile in appearance. Good for combining multiple levels as it has a variety of questions of increasing difficulty.

*Biology 101* and *Chemistry 101* DVD's by Westfield Studios. Good introduction for the whole family to watch.

### Math

If your kids are older, and you want to focus on learning and practicing the basics necessary for adult life, check out the *Key to* series (Fractions, Decimals, Percents, Algebra, Geometry, and Metric Measurement). Algebra and Geometry wouldn't be appropriate for a complete college prep course. These are self-teaching, non-intimidating, not childish, and cover these subjects in an incremental manner to arrive at mastery. ([www.keycurriculum.com](http://www.keycurriculum.com))

### History/Geography

Our family loves the Landmark series of historical books. These were published in the 50's through 70's and are written by well-respected authors. They are not historical fiction, rather incredibly interesting and accurate accounts of particular episodes of history. There is a series devoted to US History and one devoted to World History. Reading level is about 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade. A listing of the books can be found here: [valerieslivinglibrary.com](http://valerieslivinglibrary.com). Click on “Landmark and World Landmark Books.”

They give a much more in-depth treatment of a particular topic than a textbook. Most of them are out of print but are found used online for reasonable prices – mostly! A few have been reprinted. Use interlibrary loan!

## Misc. Resources

Check out Paradigm Accelerated Curriculum (don't let the name fool you) at [www.pacworks.biz](http://www.pacworks.biz) for various subjects delivered in a non-intimidating workbook format that is simple, easy to read, self paced and intended to be used without a teacher. It also has some options for getting the content via audio or computer. The student writes in consumable workbooks and has a companion workbook text. Layout on the page is easy on the eye – lots of white space, non-distracting.

For teens - *LifePac Select **Electives*** by Alpha Omega Publications is a good resource for computer based subjects from American Literature to Health to Civics to Earth Science to GED Prep– targeted to either grades 7 – 12 or 9 – 12. This means the content is delivered in such a way as to be understandable for the lowest grade listed. Print versions are also available in the form of LifePacs.

Whatever the topic, explore the ‘Dummies’ or ‘Idiot’s Guide’ type books on a variety of subjects – geography, history, literature, etc. Keep in mind they aren’t written from a Biblical perspective, but they tend to address topics without too much technical terminology or unnecessary detail.

You tube channel “Crash Course” can be helpful as well as [www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org).

### Teens - Finding Your Child’s Interests/Direction

[www.getunbound.org](http://www.getunbound.org)- check out “Navigate.”

[www.getadirection.com](http://www.getadirection.com) - check out *Natural Talent Questionnaire* or *Discover Your Child’s Natural Talents*

### Teens - for help in gaining a fresh perspective on their future work:

Check out the Institute for Faith, Work, and Economics at [www.tifwe.org](http://www.tifwe.org).

If you’re game for an out-of-the-box take on vocations, check out Mike Rowe’s site at [profoundlydisconnected.com](http://profoundlydisconnected.com).