

Our Story

Dr. Jay L. Wile

- University Professor From 1990 - 1995
- Helped Develop Indiana's Only Residential High School for Gifted and Talented Students
- NSF-Sponsored Scientist with More Than \$200,000 In Research Grants
- Became Interested in Homeschooling Because of Excellent University Students Who Were Homeschooled
- Currently writes Christian apologetics materials and science courses for homeschooled students
- No longer with Apologia

Introduction

- Became interested in homeschooling because my best university students were homeschooled
- Started writing homeschooling curriculum BEFORE I had any children.
- Became Dawn's guardians when she was 14 and adopted her at 15.
- Started homeschooling her once we had adopted her.
- *Family Magazine* recently published a story about the challenges and blessings related to adopting her.

What Homeschooling Did for Dawn

- 👍 It allowed me to find the "holes" in her education and fill them.
- 👍 It allowed her to learn how to research things and learn on her own.
- 👍 It gave her academic self-confidence that she didn't have.
- 👍 It allowed her to study Scripture in a completely different way.

What Homeschooling Did for Me

- 👍 It allowed me to see firsthand how horrible public education can be.
- 👍 It allowed me learn things I had never learned before.
- 👍 It gave me a completely new perspective on what homeschooling is all about.

What Homeschooling Did for Us

- 👍 It taught us how to forgive and forget.
- 👍 It allowed us to learn about each other in ways that most parents and children never do.
- 👍 It forged a bond that is truly amazing.
- 👍 It taught us an ENORMOUS amount about grace!

A “Typical” Day

- I would wake her up at 6:30 AM. If she had done really well on her assignments the day before, I would let her sleep in. She had to be at the desk ready to go in 1 hour.
- We would start with math, the one subject in which she NEEDED a teacher. Once the math lesson was done, I would go over her previous day’s assignments with her and give her today’s assignments.
- I would leave for work. She knew that she had to have her assignments done by the time I got back, because I would need to grade them so that we could start the process all over again.

A Few Examples of What We Did

English

- ⇒ **Vocabulary:** Used Barron’s ACT review book for a list of vocabulary words.
- ⇒ **Writing:** She wrote for nearly every subject except math and science. On a history report, the grammar and composition would make her English grade. The content would make her history grade
- ⇒ **Reading:** I went to a university’s website that listed “great books” students should read before going to university. I put a list of 30 books together. She had to choose 4 per year. She also got to choose one book not on the list.

Math

- ⇒ This was the one subject she COULD NOT do on her own. I ended up teaching her each lesson myself. As a result, we just used my old textbooks.
- ⇒ As for what is available, I think Videotext, Saxon, and MATH-U-SEE are all solid and user-friendly. Singapore is great but takes a lot of your time. Bob Jones is great if you have access to someone who knows the subject. I am on the fence about Teaching Textbooks.

Science

Not surprisingly, I had her do my stuff for science. She did not like science, but she was able to do quite well in it.

Health

This was not a science course. It was a healthy living course. She had to do regular exercise and choose a diet plan that made sense to her. I also used this as an excuse to talk about sex.

History and U.S. Government

- ⇒ **US and World History:** Jumbled up a timeline and had her put it in order. Then we stepped through the timeline item-by-item. If I knew what it was, I wrote questions she had to answer. If not, she wrote an essay to educate ME.
- ⇒ **Government:** Updated the language in the U.S. Constitution.

Geography and World Events

By Friday of each week, she had to have found an article in the newspaper about a country or region of the world that she had not reported on before. She had to write a report on why it was in the news, where it is on the map, what its economic base was, and what system of government it was under.

Foreign Language

- ⇒ For this one, we sent her to a local university.
- ⇒ We also sent her to the same local university for Psychology.
- ⇒ In terms of what is available today, I think Rosetta Stone is wonderful.

ACT/SAT Review

SAT I: Math and English

Review books: *Barron's SAT Review*, *REA's SAT Review*

ACT: Math, English, and Science Reasoning

Review books: *Barron's SAT Review*, *REA's SAT Review*

We did a lot of this, especially with math. It was a way to keep reviewing what she had already learned as well as study for the ACT.

What Happened After Homeschool

- 👍 She was accepted to and graduated from Butler University with a degree in sociology.
- 👍 She worked for the publishing company I once owned.
- 👍 She became a veterinary technician.
- 👍 She and her husband are now a long-haul trucking team.
- 👍 **She is still my little girl!**