Welcome to Empowering Homeschool Conversations, your authority in navigating the world of homeschooling diverse learners. Featuring Peggy Ployer from Sped Homeschool, Annie Yorty from Annie Yorty.com, Leilani Melendez from Living with Eve, Stephanie Buckwalter from eLARP Learning, and Dawn Jackson from Dawn Jackson Educational Consulting and Tutoring. With over seventy five years of combined homeschooling expertise, experiences and perspectives, this group is eager to share their wealth of wisdom to empower your homeschooling journey. So grab your favorite mug, settle in and get ready for insightful discussions,

valuable insights and practical tips. Give your homeschool the power boost it needs to successfully educate the unique learners in your home. Hi, everyone, and welcome to Empowering Homeschool Conversations. Today, we are going to talk about Beyond the Classroom, **Exploring Alternative** Education Models for Homeschool Success. And my guest today is Jonas Copeland. He is an award-winning education innovator and creative force behind the popular education YouTube channel, Sprouts. As the author of The Unschooler's Educational Dictionary, Jonas has crafted a comprehensive guide to

alternative education models that helps parents make informed and confident school choices for their children. In this invaluable resource, he delves into the complexities of education, exploring diverse approaches such as Montessori, micro schools, Ivy schools, Unschooling Waldorf and More with engaging visuals, practical insights, and thoughtful overviews of alternative educational history. This book is an essential tool for homeschooling parents and anyone interested in reimagining education. We're thrilled to have Jonas here to share his expertise and insights with us today. Welcome to the show. Welcome.

It's an honor to be here, Peggy. Yes. Yeah. So a lot of times when parents homeschool children with learning complexities, which is our audience, the traditional model doesn't work. And so parents are always looking for something different because they've proven already and their child has proven the traditional model is not something that fits or is something their child. I always often say a child can be at a contortionist and some children are much more able to contort into these boxes that we make for them called educational models. And yet some kids have like this limb that just sticks

out and doesn't quite fit into that. And so we kind of have to design school around them or find alternatives that work better. So I'm super excited to be talking about this topic today and just helping parents to understand kind of think differently about education and just how to approach it. So I'd love to know just what inspired you to write this book about unconfessional teaching and schooling methods for homeschooling parents. Right. So I think, I mean, I've been now for ten years in the field of education. I went myself to an alternative school. My mother was a roller

school teacher and then she

started her own drama

school for young kids.

in munich and um i myself

never really felt um very

excited once i became a

teenager to go to school

even though the school was

it was a nice school it was

a small school but i was

just bored and um and many

and then yeah i i dropped

out basically when i was

around i finished school wow

And yeah,

kudos to my parents who still trust me.

Right.

And I went to work a little

bit and did my social service.

And then I went to travel to

India and some Asian countries with,

I think, just turning nineteen.

And I left home for a year

and I came back and my

mother convinced me to go

back to school to finish

high school so I could go to college.

And I did that.

But it taught me a very important lesson.

And I think one of the

takeaways was when I went

back to high school then,

it was very simple for me.

I was just older than everybody else.

I was much more calm.

I was relaxed.

I knew I wanted to do this for a reason.

And so I had a purpose to finish it.

And it was, yeah,

it was a stroll in the park

compared to some of the

other kids who were super

anxious of not getting the

grades they needed and things like that.

Yeah, then I, um, became an entrepreneur.

I, um, started a few companies, uh,

unrelated to education, but, uh, later in,

uh, around, um, ten years ago,

I came across, um, um,

all these online learning, um, methods,

which are spreading up like, um,

Coursera and all of that.

And I got super excited because, uh,

it showed that there's

suddenly an opportunity to

just learn from the very

best without being present.

Right.

right and i wanted to share

that with my with my team

and some of my employees

but around fifty people in

the company and uh most of

them were not excited about

um development and and you

know learning more and um

and it was made me really

deeply sad and um i

realized um many of them

are products of a very

rigid educational system

right to ask questions and

we're not allowed to

explore and they don't

really know what they

what they're interested in

and what they don't know.

That feeling that people in

their thirties arrived at

their maximum level of

interest without then

exploring new things made me sad.

And so this is when I

started my educational

journey around ten years ago.

And I started with YouTube.

A friend of mine invited me

to write some scripts on YouTube.

And then we also developed apps.

And I opened up a micro

school and a lot of other things.

And eventually,

we got approached by a

publisher who liked our YouTube channel.

And they asked me to write a book.

And so I wrote a book on a

perspective of myself when

I was fifteen years old.

with the knowledge I had

then after publishing

hundreds of videos on

YouTube on educational methods,

psychological methods,

and reading a lot and

researching a lot on education.

And so that's the book basically.

It's a sarcastic, humorous view,

but it should provide

parents really an overview

of what is there and why

many kids are struggling in school.

That's that's awesome

because it's hard to get

into the mind of a fifteen

year old and and figure out

what's going on because you don't know if it's attitude, if it's hormones, because I had I had a child like that, too. And it's very it's disturbing for a parent. I'm sure your mom who started a school really struggled a lot, having you kind of walk away from education and So was there any experiences that you had when you were away from that kind of interim time when you went to Asia and all of that, that kind of shaped you or gave you an idea of the importance of education or just kind of a perspective on yourself? Yeah, I mean, I went to India in, this was in, and it was a very poor country then.

I believe it still is quite poor. I haven't been back since, but it was very, very poor. And so I realized what kind of, you know, luck I had in life to be born in a country where everybody is relatively well off. I mean. you saw everyday people basically with limbs missing, you know, lying on the street asking for, you know, I don't know, a dollar or something. and a rupee. And so I think that changed me quite a bit. Um, I went, uh, when I arrived back home, I started a nonprofit and, uh, I, I organized a lot of events on, uh, basically hip hop events. So we invited bands to play free of charge and we, um, donated the money. to charity the first year

we've completely failed we

had over a thousand people

coming and paying but we

spent more than we

anticipated and so at the

end we didn't donate

anything but we did it

again and then we donated

thirty thousand dollars and

then it happened for

another seven times seven

years in a row and so I

think I grew quite I think

a lot of being away during that time

Because I followed my passion.

I worked at around thirty different jobs,

I would say,

to save the money to go on a trip.

And I think a lot of teenagers,

I'm not sure so many girls

because I'm not a girl and

I don't know them that well in that age,

but I know a lot of boys

when they turn fourteen, fifteen, sixteen,

they're just not interested

in physics or in chemistry or in

they're interested in

independence and they're

interested in showing that

they can take care of themselves.

And so I think that was a

main driver for me.

I didn't want an adult with

a beard and some glasses

telling me what I should be

interested in.

I wanted to basically show

my friends that I can make

a little bit of money and pay for,

I don't know,

pay for the milkshakes or

whatever we drank back then,

maybe for the weed.

We smoked some weed back then.

So I think the drive for

independence and not having

a strong authority to tell

you what you ought to do is

what hinders a lot of young

boys and maybe also a lot

of young girls to really

become excellent.

And it's a shame because if

you look at when people

reach their peak kind of excellence,

a lot of people reach it in

the mid-twenties, right?

And, um, um,

and a lot of genius have their

most productive period in

the early gen early twenties.

And so we take away the opportunity,

I think, uh.

in fruit traditional

education to identify, you know, um,

these geniuses, you know, some of us,

you know,

they shouldn't show it for good grades,

but many will not because

they're just bored.

Right.

And what they have to learn and,

and we'll never learn.

that um that they have a lot

of fire in them and yeah so

it's so so true yeah we we

kind of beat it out of them

with the education system

that that drive and that

individuality um their

ability be to be creative

and to kind of pull from

inside um they're just kind of

you know spewing out what

what's put in them i know

my daughter's best

experience after high

school was not to continue

school she went and did

retail for a while and she

had some incredible

experiences she was put in

charge of redesigning the whole department at the age of eighteen um but um the perspective that was even better that she took away from that was she i she came home every night and she's like, I feel so sorry for these managers. They are stuck. They have kids, they have mortgages, you know, all these things that they have to pay for. And so they can't actually pursue something that they want to do because they just have to earn money. And that was probably the most invaluable experience for her was being around people that, you know, had had followed followed the track. And she's like, I just don't want that.

So.

So, yeah, I, I,

I completely agree that that that's super,

super important.

And it's a great perspective

for us to give parents when

they're thinking about about schooling,

too.

um so what are some

unconventional teaching

methods that you discuss in

your book that have proven

effective for homeschool

students who really

struggle with these

traditional models i mean i

personally um and i write a

lot about that and i'm a

very big believer in

experiential learning and i

think um if it's paired with some

social elements um then I

think um it's yeah it's on

it works on steroids and and I think so so for example if you you know get it a group of young people together and uh and they and they have to do something even if they fail at it um but I do it together with the mission then they will learn a lot of things a lot of things we cannot quantify later and you know they will not appear in a report because they don't really know what they learn, right? It's like walking. We all learned how to walk, but it's very difficult to describe for an adult how one walks, right? It's impossible. Absolutely.

But I think so learning by

doing and making it exciting,

so aligning it with the

passions by letting the maybe kids...

challenge themselves.

And I think adults can help

create challenges either by

incentivizing them

correctly or by just

showing them and connecting

them with the right kind of role models.

So if you look, for example,

at the Erickson theory of development,

which has eight stages, and the infant,

the very infant is mostly

mostly attuned to and also

learns the most from the mother.

And then it's the family and

then it's the kids around

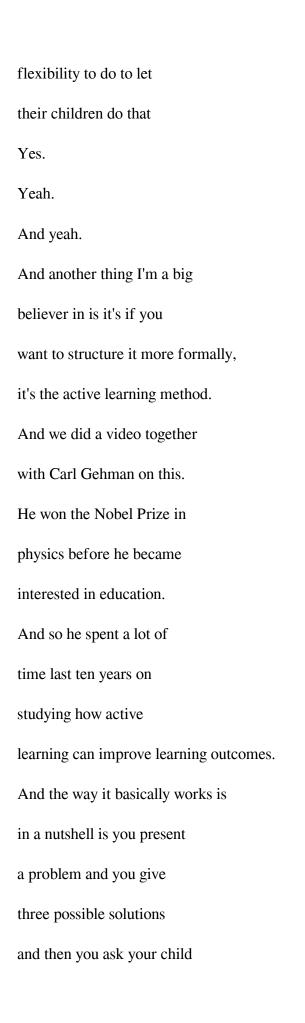
the block and then it's the

kids in school.

And when you're a teenager,

you mostly learn from your

peers and some role models. Right. And so if you, for example, had a homeschooling child who is interested in, for example, music, um learn from her or his favorite musician how they do things and how do they did things and how do they for example plan their tours and you know what does it i don't know income statement look like from somebody who organizes tours for these um for these artists then you have the passion right and so i think that's that's really important i think that that's a huge opportunity for homeschooling parents um because they have the



to make a bet on which

solution they think is the right.

And you might even want to

incentivize that in one way or the other.

And then ideally you have a group.

So you have maybe four kids

to do that or six or eight

or you have other family

members who join that.

So you have A, B and C and the child picks,

let's say A and then

You start conversations

about their solutions and

you try to convince them of

maybe another solution

which you think is right

and your child convinces

you of their solution.

And so this kind of

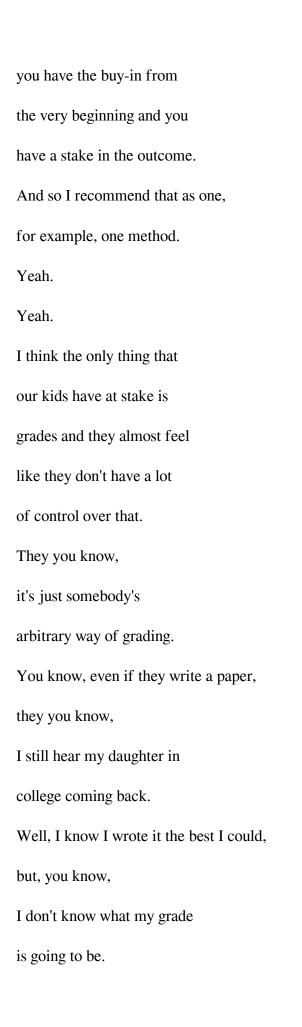
argumentation there creates

a lot of feelings, emotions, right?

Which makes the whole topic

already very sticky.

And then basically once you've done that, you ask everybody to vote again, A, B or C, and you will see whether the vote changed, right? and only after that you go basically and present a solution explain why that's the solution right and so that uh model we made a video and it's quite popular and kardinian became a co-author of this video which was amazing because he worked there you know as a physicist from from the united states one of the belt price and he was uh you know on the script with me writing that video and i think um Yeah, that's a very powerful way because

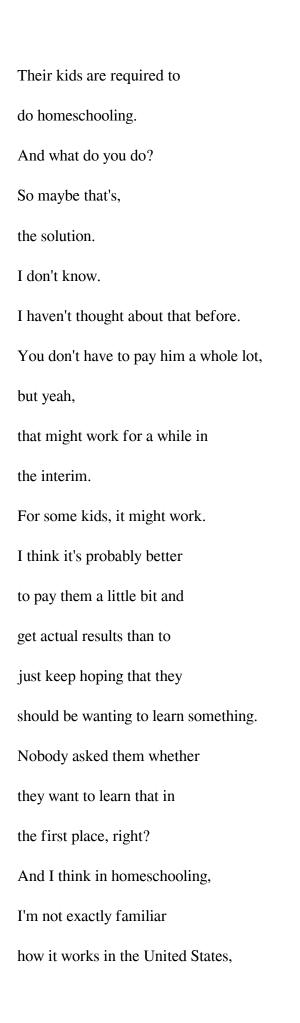


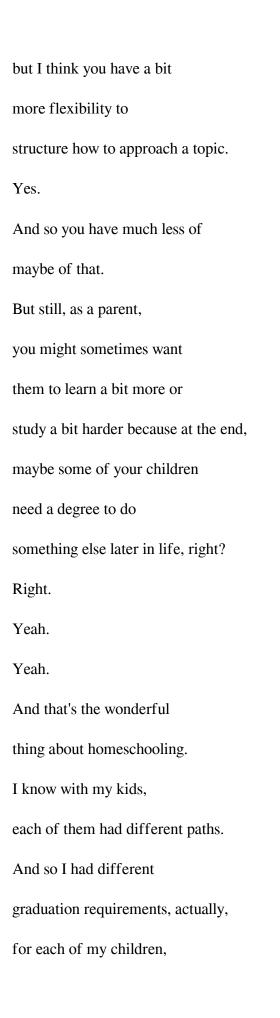
Um, but, but to be able to, to, you know, to work towards that and know that there was, you know, there's something that they can invest in it. And, um, you know, more so than just, I'm just handing this over to an authority figure now to make the decision for me, um, that there there's more into that. I love that. Um, Yeah, very true. One study I quote in my book, and I didn't quote too many studies because we do a lot of that already on YouTube. And it's written sarcastically. But one study we quote is from Roland Fryer. He spent a lot of money, government money, public funds, he's from Harvard, on experiments with

teenagers on how to motivate them to learn. And so he gives them basically enough money to buy an Xbox. And one of the big insights, he totally spent, I think, twenty million dollars on these experiments in the last ten years. And one of the insights he has is if you spend it on, if you incentivize them just to read something they can control, time spent reading a book, it works. But if you incentivize them to get a good grade in English, it doesn't. Yes, because they can't control that, right? That's beyond their control. So even if they could win four hundred dollars to buy themselves an Xbox, they're not going to work hard.

But if you tell them, you know, OK, at ten dollars an hour, you just read the book, you know, five dollars an hour, I don't know, two dollars an hour, I don't know what it came down to. Then they do that, right? And I mean, coming from Europe and from Germany, we would never spend money on our kids to learn. But on the other side, you know, for some kids that works quite well, apparently. And I know bit divided on that topic. I wouldn't do it for my own kids, but for many kids, it feels like work going to school because they don't like it. And they earn something they don't care about, only some other people care about.

And so I think for some kids, maybe you should just pay them to go to school. It is kind of like a job for some kids. I've never even thought of that as a perspective before. But, you know, it's like when you clock in and clock out, you're doing work because, you know, you just are going to get paid. And that ends up being the incentive. And so, yeah, it's... we would love for our kids to want to learn. We do find a lot of kids, especially, you know, in our community that are burnt out on learning just because the school system has burnt them out. And so parents are often in a sticky place. They're required to teach.





all from the same school, but different graduation requirements. And that's great. That's fine, because, yes, two of my went to college and one didn't. And so, of course, the the bar was going to be a bit higher, especially one that's an engineer. And yes, he needed to have certain classes. So so, you know. Traditional method versus unconventional methods. I think a lot of parents kind of lean towards, well, are the unconventional methods only for kids that maybe the traditional method doesn't fit for? Or would it benefit any child to learn unconventionally? It really comes down to how the unconventional learning, I think,

is delivered, right? I think if the parents have the resources and time, Then I think most children would benefit from homeschooling or even unschooling if the parents pay enough attention to what actually happens throughout the day. Then there are a lot of, I think, good programs for kids when they're young, which I think most kids would benefit from, which are not traditional, forest schools or Waldorf schools, Montessori schools. At the end, I think, I mean, it comes down to the teacher and the other kids in the class, right? And I think that's, and the opportunities the parents have. I mean,

some don't have the opportunity to

do alternative education

because they either don't

have the money or there's

nothing around where they live.

or they don't have the time.

And then, yeah,

they can just hope that

their kid is doing kind of

okay in a traditional school.

Maybe they strive in a

traditional school and they

won the jackpot.

But for parents who have the

resources or the time or

the ability to choose,

I think, yeah,

many kids benefit from a

different system.

I think one of the main

problems of a traditional

school is that you send a

child through for twelve years,

always telling them what they need to do,

and then you ask them at the end,

so what do you want to do?

And they have no idea

because it's the first time

you ask them that, right?

And then they go to college,

and maybe many parents want

that to happen fast.

And then they maybe even add

a master to a bachelor,

and then they're off to work.

And then they're forty,

and they're miserable

because they finally

realized that they wanted

to do something else.

Right.

And I think, yeah,

so especially having either breaks,

you know, maybe a year break, a gap year,

even when they're a bit younger,

to explore something else

or slow it down a bit or don't push them straight to college or give them, yeah, take them out of the rat race a little bit, I think is beneficial for almost every child, I would say. Yeah, I completely agree. All of our kids had gap years and it was, It was life changing for each of them. One of them actually pursued more education. Actually, two of them did after being in more like hands on type of work situations. And so so, yeah, you just don't know where it's going to take them. But but they learn a lot about themselves, too. So it is it's a great opportunity, even if you don't have that time.

And I love that you emphasize that it takes time because the nontraditional method is is very especially for if you're doing it from a homeschool perspective and you don't have those schools to tap into. Especially when they're in the high school years, it is very time intensive as a parent. I know I did unit study learning for my oldest in high school. And there was a lot of planning and a lot of making sure things got done and tracking hours and all of that. It paid off because he was just a very hands on learner. But but I had to be on top of it all of the time. So so, yes, there is a trade off if if you

have to have to do that. Yeah, I think it really has to come down to each family situation and to decide what is the right thing for them. And I think many homeschooling parents, from my understanding, they do it, then they realize, okay, now my kid wants to actually try school again, then they maybe do school for another few years, and then maybe they go out again and do more homeschooling or join a... a micro school or now with all the online options available, there's so many other opportunities they have to learn together with other like minded people or kids. So I think every family has

to decide for themselves what is the right thing that they can manage in terms of time, resources, money. I mean. I think in America there's a big shift now towards vouchers and helping families really with school choice, which I think is a huge, huge deal. In Europe, there's a lot of charter schools already since many, many years, but it's quite difficult to be innovative because it's all, yeah, to get basically recognized as a specific school, as a Waldorf school, That took years at the beginning. Now it's well known and it's easy to open, relatively easy to open one. But if you want to do something else, because Wallace School is

also a very specific school. It's not very competitive. Everybody's trying to follow the original Rudolf Steiner curriculum, which is very particular. So if you want to try something else, and then there's a lot of roadblocks. I think it's going to be very exciting how it plays out now in many of the states in America, which embrace, give parents a choice what to do. I think it's going to be quite good for many kids. Yeah. And yeah, homeschooling is now the fastest growing educational model in the US. And I just saw a report from my local school district. They're like, numbers keep declining on kids enrolling and

Because parents had that

taste in twenty twenty of, oh, you know,

I remember before that I

homeschooled way before twenty twenty.

And, you know, parents would always say,

oh, can't do that.

You know, just that, you know, I'd love to,

but can't do that.

And then they all had a

taste of it when they were forced to.

And they're like, oh,

I guess I can do that.

And and it took, you know,

a little bit off of their.

I guess, their hesitancy to school.

Yet, you know, a lot of parents,

as soon as schools opened, they're like,

I'm done.

So what would you have as

advice for parents who

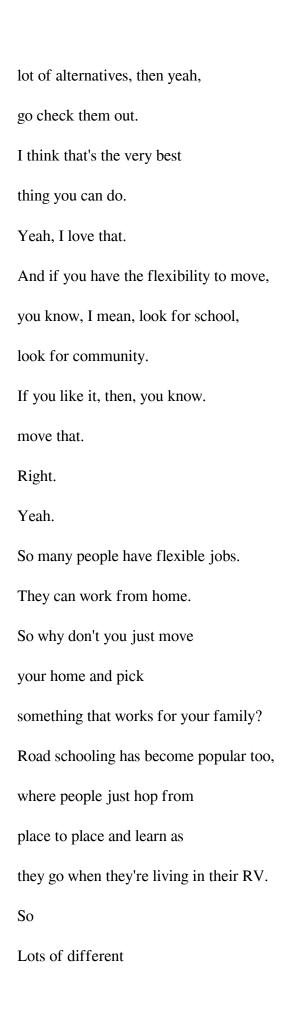
still are kind of hesitant about

I think this isn't a good fit for my child,

this traditional method,

but I just don't know where to start, what to even start exploring as a non-traditional method. Where do we begin? Mm-hmm. Right, I think, I mean, looking what happens in your community is probably the most valuable thing, right? To see, you know, who else is homeschooling, are there some learning paths, are there some micro schools, are there some alternative schools? And just go, you know, visit these places, you know, and see, you know, how the kids what are the kids feeling about going to these places? Do they look happy when they walk in? Is the energy, does it feel good? Does it not feel good? I visited many schools in my life since I went into education.

I went to the green school in Bali. I went to like democratic schools and I went to a democratic school, for example, which didn't prohibit screen time in school. And so you had all these young kids, you know, starting age seven, who are most of the time just looking at the screens, right? All the entire day. And so I didn't feel like this would be a school I want to send my kids to, even if they have, you know, democracy, right? And you could pick whatever you want to learn or not. But No, so I think it comes down to, you know, seeing and feeling what's happening. And I think if you live in an area where there are a



alternatives for families now that didn't exist before and just embracing those. That's a good way to learn. There's no one best way. Would you have to agree with that, that nothing comes to the top? Right. I think, for example, if you are from an unfortunate background, but you're academically very attuned and let's say, you know, have a very high IQ, a traditional school might be exactly the right place for you, right? Because you are because you are in an environment where teachers will recognize your ability and there may be scholarship options and there are ways to to strive

and to really uplift not only your own life, but then the life of the entire family. And so For kids like that, you know, maybe traditional school is the very best thing there is. But I think if parents realize that their kid hates to go to school or doesn't like to go to school, and I mean, we published another study in our book on suicide rates and how they go up when the school opens and drop during holidays. And I think, you know, if you're in a situation where you realize something is really, really wrong with my child going to school, like, i think you have to take them out i mean even if you

have no other plans yes

right because right because

it's an emergency and i

think so that's um the

families have to find um um

find time i think that's

the most important um

headspace to think about um

the opportunities and and

and the downside of

different options and um and one of the

is one of the reasons i

wrote the book is to have

give them a little bit of

an overview of what kind of

different schools are there

are and it's uh and what

are they good at and we do

it with the assumption that

the schools really follow

the philosophy because you

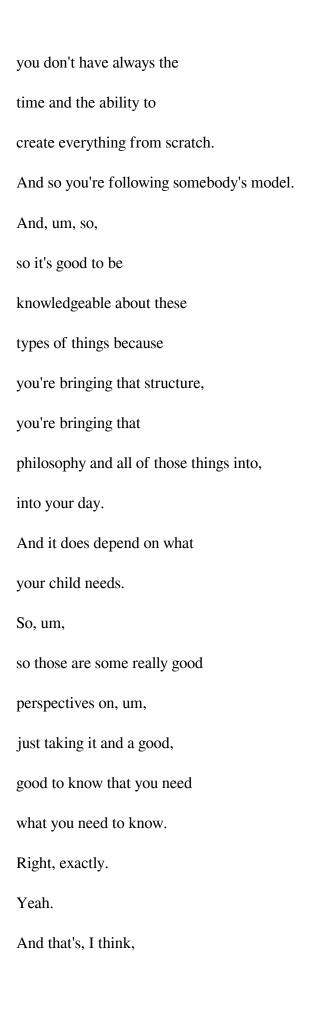
don't know often for

example montessori anybody

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can open a montessori
school there's no trademark
or anything like that
So I could open a school
tomorrow called Montessori
and it would be a Montessori school.
But is it a Montessori school?
Do I really follow three
hours of uninterrupted playtime, you know,
things like that?
Maybe not.
Right.
So I think, yeah,
we wrote the book under the
assumption that the
educators or the families
who are behind the school,
they follow the philosophy
as it was developed.
Right.
And then we advise, you know,
what sort of kids fit in
what kind of school.
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So, for example, for Montessori, I think if you have a very introverted child which likes to go really deep on a specific subject, a Montessori school can be very, very good. On the other side, Montessori schools are maybe not that great to teach social skills because compared to Waldorf schools, for example, which are very structured, many people don't know that, but they're very structured to the minute and and they follow a very rigid curriculum of, okay, in the first grade you work with clay, in the second grade you work with wood, in the third grade you work with fabrics, in the fourth grade you work with... And all of

these activities happen together. And so I think if your child is... and wants to make friends and be part of a group, then that might be a better choice. Because in Montessori school, maybe most kids just sit there and go deep into their subjects for three hours and not talk much with each other. So these are just two methods which we explain and why I think that school might be better for a child which likes certain things as opposed to other things. Right. Yeah. And even in the homeschool setting, you know, you're using a curriculum. That curriculum really dictates a lot that happens in your day just because as a parent,



one of the other reasons I wrote the book. Because, I mean, if you're a new parent and you first time have to think about school, let's say your child turns three or four or five or whenever that point is, you have no idea. know even about the words or the vocabulary or what you know what a school consists of right exactly and and so that that's why i made it the dictionary so it's you know from a to z um for homework it would say something like you know a regular exercise which um which helps kids from um i think from from um privileged kids get ahead of those from broken homes that's the definition so it's written in

definitions um to just give parents the different vocabulary they need to go to school and with my perspective from a yeah fifteen year old truant basically um and and uh and and the knowledge i now have on education and so I think, yeah, knowing what there is and what you should at least know that you could research more about, I think that's the main purpose of the book. We're not exploring deep in the subject. It's just to give you an overview of all the concepts on learning theory, on psychology, on alternative education, which we think parents or I think parents should know about. Absolutely.

Yes.
There's so much I didn't know.
I didn't have any background
in education when I first
started homeschooling my kids.
I had a degree in physics
and I was just forced into it.
And so
Yeah,
I felt like I didn't know anything
all these people were talking about.
I was walking through
homeschool curriculum fairs.
They're talking about, you know, phonics.
And I'm like, what is that?
I have no idea.
Yeah.
And so, you know, to even, you know,
think beyond the subjects
and to like whole, you know,
schooling models was just
very obscure in my brain.
So but yeah.

But yeah, it's really important because it structures your whole teaching methodology and just how you run your day. So important. So could you share a success story or personal experience where an unconventional approach significantly benefited a student? Yeah, I mean, there are many famous people who went to Montessori schools. I mean, I think, yeah. a lot of the tech entrepreneurs and a lot of very famous people and very exceptional people were homeschooled back in the day, right? I mean, start from Mozart, then there's Billie Eilish today, then there's Nikola Tesla.

There's a lot of, I mean, if you look at the list of people who did exceptional things and who are either autodidacts taught themselves or taught by their parents or by tutors back in the days, It's immense, right? Out of personal experience, besides myself, of course, I mean, I know from all of my friends who went to a Waldorf school, many of them chose a very different career, I think. Very few went into traditional jobs, like going to a bank or working for a big company. Some did, but then they quit. One became a very famous producer. He's regular at the Academy Awards. He didn't win the Oscar yet,

but was nominated twice

already for his films with

a very close friend of mine.

Another one became also a

very good friend of mine,

became first a carpenter

and then started his own

company and now he builds

amazing homes and

And the third one went to Audi,

a car company,

and then he didn't like it at all.

And now he started his own

financial service company.

And so a lot of them are entrepreneurs,

I would say.

Not necessarily started right away,

but eventually they became

very autonomous and independent.

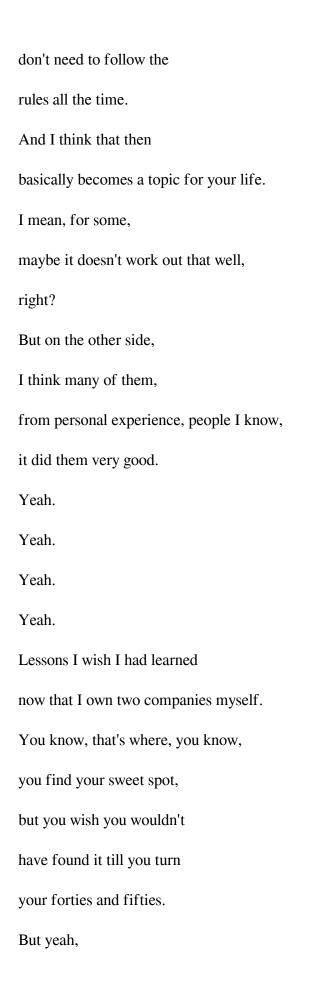
And I think that's one of

the biggest advantages of

learning early that

that there are other ways to

do things and that you



it's amazing just to kind of see how students now that had been homeschooled that I'm bringing on and hiring into my, my businesses, just their perspectives and, and how differently they look at, at life versus how I was brought up and, and the ability to just, you know, rely more on their own understanding and, and not feeling like somebody has to be telling them all the time what to do. They're always, you know, interjecting and have ideas and, and, and really thinking instead of just saying, well, what do I do next? So I love that. Absolutely. Right, right. I think that's the biggest problem, basically, right? That kids are always

incentivized to be the good student.

And if you're not, you don't fit in.

And you are often, you know, just,

you know, you basically just

shut down,

basically don't even listen

anymore because you know

you're not going to be good anyway.

But even those who are

listening and following the instructions,

they're going to listen for

a long time afterwards and

following the instructions,

and they're going to miss a

lot of opportunities to do

something extraordinary with their lives.

And it goes, I think,

as far that a lot of

research on what happens to

Harvard students who are always,

these are all kids which

are exceptionally smart,

but always follow,

or most of them just follow instructions of what to do, right? And then they get a good grade and they go to an amazing university. And then they, of course, have to go to an amazing company, which is usually a big bank or maybe, you know, tech companies. And then they have to also, of course, do really well there, right? Right. It's the striving. Exactly. And then they have to get a spouse, which is amazing looking, you know, and hardworking and intelligent, you know. And then they're, you know, forty-five and they're divorced and they wonder like, oh is the ideal kind of person you

can ever become is terrible

because it just leads you

very often to the wrong path.

And there's nothing worse than, you know,

probably have you know not

finding or like finding the

wrong partner and having

children right I mean this

will be with you that

conflict will be with you

for your life and um right

and if it especially if it

stops you from finding the

right partner right which

is and so I think it's um I

think it's it's a very long

term kind of um investment

which parents have to take

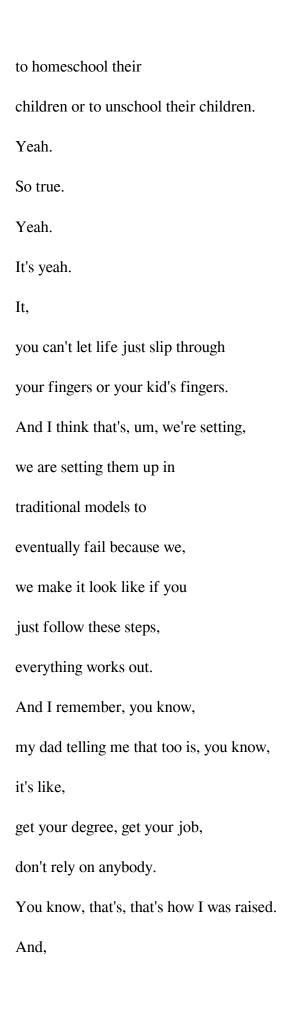
um but it will pay off and I think um

those parents who understand

the payout and how big it can be,

they should try their best

to find the right school or



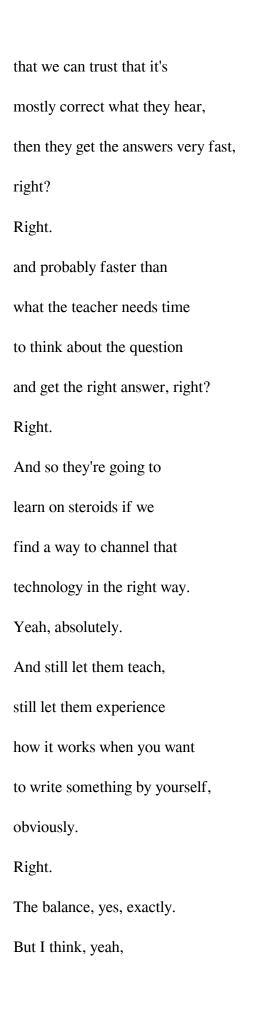
and yet it's all about relationships and it's, it's not about always following the rules and, you know, and that's, that's life. And, and, And yeah, it was a big letdown when you realize it doesn't work. So what trends do you see emerging in the realm of homeschooling and unconventional education in the coming years? Yeah, I think, I mean, there's a huge drive towards, I think, micro schools at the moment, mainly in the US, but also in other countries it's coming. In China, for example, you have a massive growth of Waldorf kindergartens. because parents realize it's

not worth it to send your kids off too young to compete for the most precious kind of spots in the universities. In India, that's hopefully happening soon, too. It's a very competitive educational system. I think what happens Globally, in countries which follow the British or the American system is that you will have, and a lot of Asian countries, for example, which follow the British system or the American system, but mostly more the British, you will have specialized middle and high schools coming, I think, because you already start to realize what the kids like. Right.

What they what they not like so much. And because you can You can specialize quite early. For example, in the British system, you can specialize from the GSSC. It's around age fourteen. So let's say grade ten. You can pick five, six, seven subjects of your choosing, for example, only in the sciences or only in business or whatever you are interested in. And then also do your A levels there. And so in the US, I think that's partly as well possible. And so I think you will have schools which focus on specific interests and then develop exceptional well programs to help kids understand this concept and get good passing grades.

And because they pull the kids together and they all have the same interest, they learn. Right. I think that's going to be a very big trend. I think the online learning as well is going to expand dramatically. I mean, now everybody learned how to use Zoom and how to do online meetings. But it's still in the infancy of how to deliver an online classroom in a very active way. But it's coming slowly. So there's a company called class.com, for example, which was started just two or three years ago. And they have a lot of interactive tools for the educator to. for example, run polls during class. And so I think a lot of that will come.

And so... I think that will help homeschooling parents a lot, that will help online high schools, online middle schools, online colleges a lot, because you can make it more fun, right? Right. Not just listening and maybe like, you know, debating, but it's also polls, maybe there are games within the... Right. You know, there's stuff like that. And so I think that's going to happen. And then I think, I mean, what happens with AI, we don't know, and how it's going to impact. But I think, I mean, my oldest son, my oldest child, he's seven, and he starts to talk to JetGPT on certain topics. And it's amazing in a way, because, I mean, once this gets to a point



I think AI and specialized schools, micro schools, online schools... And parents, homeschooling parents who realize, you know, my kid is really interested in physics. And then, you know, going to a website like Outschool, for example, and finding a fantastic physics teacher from a university who teaches high school students at university level. That's amazing, right? And so that all will become, I think, quite normal in the long run. for those who take control over the education of their children. And so I think I'm very optimistic for homeschooling parents because the technology, I think it's just about to start.

I mean,
what we had with Coursera ten years
ago and some of the other
big platforms was not bad,
But I think what's coming
now and serious games, for example,
there's a lot of serious
games like simulations, for example.
So the kids simulate things,
let's say running and
running a retail store.
Right.
And there's one of the
Harvard Beer Game and
there's a company called Foreo, I think,
in Australia.
They do the simulations.
So you have one child is the retailer.
The other child is a customer.
The third child is the wholesaler.
The fourth is the producer.
And then the beer becomes
famous because the celebrity endorses it.

And then the retailer orders

a lot and the wholesaler

orders even more and the

producer orders even more.

And basically it takes an

hour with four players.

And at the end you count

your stock because the

demand drops again and most

of them are left with a lot of stock,

right?

Most of the players.

the the company which has

the least stock is the

winner and so it's just one

example of where you can

make learning really

engaging and you teach a

lot on supply chain and

supply demand and how

celebrities impact trends

and and and so that i

think parents who who have

the resource and the time to look for these kind of things um i think they can really nowadays and especially in the in this near future benefit a lot from these developments. Absolutely, yes. It would take thirty years before schools, I mean, before public schools have, you know, have heard of these things. That's the problem. Oh, yeah. No, it takes so much approval. And yeah, and it's always cost them more than a parent. But and because it has to be developed, it has to meet certain standards. It's just there's so many, so much red tape that's involved where a parent can just say, yeah, that's good or that's not.

And I don't need to have a

committee vote on it.

So that's so true.

And yeah,

just the explosion that's

happened since twenty

twenty being in this

industry now for twenty five years.

It's amazing just how much

has changed since I first

started homeschooling and

and just how exciting it is

to see the the ramp up.

the changes that have been

happening and i'm super

excited too to see where

that's going to go and and

how all that's going to

play out so um i'd love for

you to talk a little bit

about your book um and

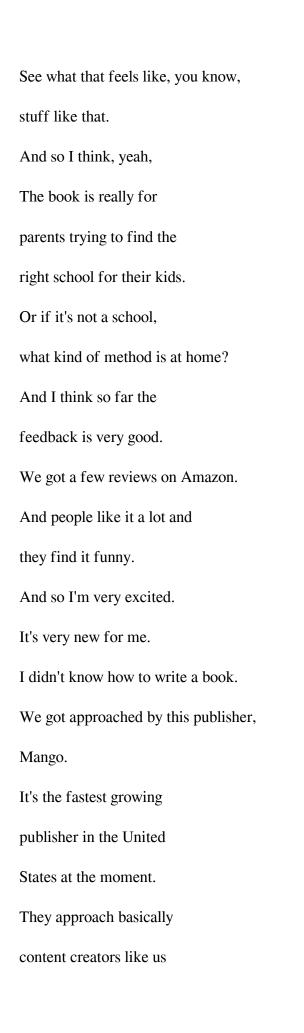
where people can find that

the it's the unschoolers

education dictionary right yeah it's on amazon and i think it's also in bands and novels and a bunch of bookstores across the world And it's, I think, two hundred fifty pages. It's mostly a dictionary. So that was ABC. And I started, I think, with twelve, number twelve, because twelve is apparently at the time a middle schooler pays attention in an average class. It's twelve minutes. Ah, okay. And so some concepts are very short, some are a bit longer. And we also write about attachment theory and how it impacts learning and Piaget and Erickson.

And so, yeah, this is the first section of the book. And then at the end, we talk about alternatives. So what are the options? And we go through sixteen different alternative schools or approaches. And there's also a checklist for parents with all the most important questions, what they should ask the school and themselves when they sign up for school. And it starts with things like class size, what is the class size ratio? And simple things, but new parents often don't know. And I think it's important. So there's around thirty questions I think they should ask either the school or research for

themselves to understand what this specific school is all about. And then they can hopefully make a more informed choice on is school the right thing? If yes, what kind of school is the right thing? If school is not the right thing, is it homeschooling? Are we, you know, with our child at the point where the child is so young that we can just do unschooling for some time? Or do we travel for a year and we unschool? Or does our child want to do a gap year where we unschool, just see what happens, you know? Maybe we don't support the child financially anymore. So maybe, you know, he gets a job for a year, right?



because we have close to two million followers now on YouTube in English, plus five hundred thousand in Spanish and Yeah, many, many hundreds of thousands in other languages. And so they approached us to write a book and I wrote it and now it's available and I have to promote it a bit so people find out about it and they seem to like it. So I hope it's going to be a project which which I will work on for another few years, maybe writing the second version of it over in Chile. I don't have the second book. I think I just want to update this one. It's very exciting. So far, it's very exciting. Very good. Yeah.

And then you've got a

website and a YouTube channel,

Sprout Schools.

What can parents find on there?

exactly so on our website we

have a hundred fifty video

lessons which are free of

charge for homeschooling

parents these are all

cartoons um and so it's not

you're not listen the kids

are not going to listen to

a another teacher talking

about something he's

explaining videos and

cartoons and they're for

mostly for kids who are

interested in social

science so psychology

economics um pedagogy and um

We make them available free of charge.

You just can play them

straight from the website

or straight from YouTube on the website. You can also download them without background music because some children with, yeah, which are very sensitive, they don't like background music. It distracts them from understanding the concept. But we also publish all the sources on the website to each lesson and we publish links to dig deeper as well as activities. So every video lesson has an activity which you can do in class or at home. And yeah, that's basically a website. It's a result of ten years of working and we have our videos now in is so meaningful for me is the videos are they're played every day uh we have around hundred thousand

views every day but what is

what is amazing to see is

that they are mostly played

uh during school hours and

that they're also

incorporated by many

universities so we can see

for the analytics who is

playing them and we have

tons of universities in

schools using them in class

um to to basically get the

initial you know interest

in the subject through cartoon

That's what you can find on the website.

That's very rewarding just

to know that people are

using your materials and

benefiting from them.

Well,

thank you so much today for doing

this interview and sharing with us.

insightful, delightful.

And I know our time
difference is quite dramatic.
So we had to kind of
schedule around both of our schedules,
but it was well worth it.
So thank you so much, Jonas,
for your time and for all that you do.
It's
Thank you, Peggy.
It was an honor to be here.
And thank you also for
waking up so early to make
this call possible.
Really appreciate that.
Absolutely.
It's definitely worth it.
And thank you all for joining us.
Next time,
we're going to talk about
unlocking sensory success.
I'm helping your unique
learner thrive at home.
We're going to be talking

about some sensory
that sometimes kids have in
learning and how to get around those.
So you'll want to join us
for our next show about that.
Until then, thanks everybody.
Take care.
God bless.
And we'll see you next time.
Bye everyone.
This has been Empowering
Homeschool Conversations
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families to home educate
diverse learners.
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