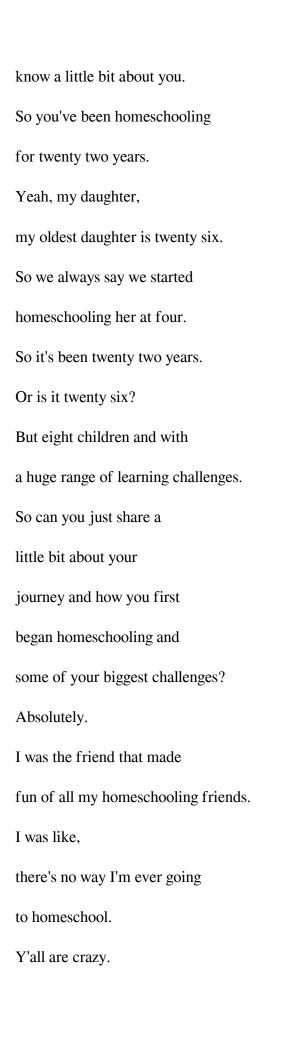
Welcome to Empowering Homeschool Conversations, your authority in navigating the world of homeschooling diverse learners. Featuring Peggy Ployer from Sped Homeschool, Annie Yorty from Annie Yorty.com, Leilani Melendez from Living with Eve, Stephanie Buckwalter from ELARP Learning, and Dawn Jackson from 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. Hello everyone and welcome to Empowering Homeschool Conversations. I am Leilani Melendez, your host for today's episode. And today we are going to be talking about homeschooling hacks for neurodivergent families. And our guest today is Felicia Johnson. She is a dedicated homeschooling mom of eight children with over twenty two years of experience tailoring education to fit each child's unique needs, having graduated three of her children and continuing to teach five more at home. Felicia has navigated a wide

including deafness, ADHD, dyslexia, dysgraphia, dyscalculia, and anxiety. She is passionate about teaching her children's interests and strengths, helping them develop strategies to overcome their challenges while celebrating their God-given potentials. Her approach fosters confidence, resilience, and the skills needed for lifelong success. So thank you so much for joining us, Felicia. Well, thanks so much, Leilani, for having me. I'm really excited to share with everybody. All right. So the first question, because we want to get to	range of learning challenges,
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They were sure laughing at me when I started homeschooling. But it really was because I just didn't have the resources actually available to me for my deaf daughter. So I started just researching options and I came to find out that there was a lot of help for homeschooling and that I could provide her better than what the school district was willing to do. And so that's how I jumped into it, thinking it was just going to be for her. But then it just became a no brainer for my following children. So here I am, twenty two years later, still doing it. What were some of the biggest challenges you think that you ran into?

Well, I mean, first, it's just the overwhelm. You know, you think you're responsible for teaching this kid who doesn't even speak your language, you know, how to read and write and do math. And so the first big hurdle challenge was learning a different language so I could communicate with her well. But even if we're not learning another language, we're having to learn new vocabulary. We're having to learn new words. expectations for our kids than we thought we were going to have when they just they have different challenges than we expected. So I think that's the first big challenge is just

getting over that hump of like changing our expectations of what we thought we were going to do with our kiddos. OK, that makes sense. OK, so I'm going to get into the meat of it right now. OK, so it sounds like your focus on building confidence and resilience or it sounds like you focus on building confidence and resilience in your children. So how do you balance the need for structure with allowing for flexibility and creativity in your homeschool day? Yeah, so I am ADHD as well. So that really affects a lot of how our homeschool day runs. And I know where my kids get it from.

So we run more on rhythms than schedules. That is one way that we make it work. We have milestones that have to be reached throughout the day. So if you want to have computer time, then you have to get your reading and math done. If you want to have movie night on Fridays, you do your Friday chores before movie night. Like we have milestones they have to reach. Right. And sometimes no divergent kids need milestones that are immediate, not so long term. So that, again, I try to keep them for the day and not so far out. But we have rhythms within the day. We have different parts of the day that school is done, different parts of the day

that animal chores are done, different parts of the day that outings happen. I don't stick to a hard schedule and we just do the next thing. I know for some planners out there, it's really hard to comprehend not planning out how many lessons you're doing each day. But it has really worked for us just to keep moving through and we get as far as we can during that allotted time and then we just move on to the next thing. So we do that. I also give lots of opportunities for kids to explore their interests. So we do the only book work we do is going to be the three R's reading, writing and arithmetic.

Everything else is going to be pretty hands on. We use four H for a lot of hands on projects as well, but we give them lots of time to explore. play with materials. I've got a mechanic. He likes to play as a truck outside that he plays with. I've got a animal kid. So we have goats and chickens that he's out there building things for and learning more about his animals. So it depends on the kid and what their interests are. And I just, I'm constantly putting them into contact with other experts because obviously I don't know everything. So it's really just giving my kids a chance to

experience the world and experience things that interest them. And then I use those interests to motivate them to get through the boring stuff, the reading, the writing, the arithmetic. You know, we use that as a motivator to get to the things they want to do. OK, I'm writing stuff down because there was a couple of things that you said that I thought was really, really good. First of all, I think it's amazing that you're willing to admit you have ADHD because we actually I just did a podcast review on this podcast. Me and another co-host talked about ADHD. And it's just so interesting just how many of us have been

you know with that and we're

having to adjust I also

like that you said that you

run on a rhythm and not a

schedule and I've heard

that before I've never

heard the term rhythm

before I really like that

rotations versus schedules

before yeah and sometimes

they say routines yeah yeah

routines that's what I was

trying to say routines

instead of schedules um but

I love that term rhythm

Because that really just

kind of sums it up.

And then the milestones,

the immediate milestones.

So I was going to ask you,

what are some examples?

You mentioned movie night.

What are some other examples

of the milestones that you try to reach? Well, for example, my seven-year-old this week had earned enough money to buy a Lego kit that he wanted. And he knew it was coming from Amazon, you know, yesterday, I think it was when it got delivered. He knew when it was coming. And I said, you know, you can't open that box until your schoolwork is done and your chores are done. And so that was a pretty immediate milestone. He knew that if he wanted to get to that Lego kit, he had to get his chores done. And obviously we don't have that happen every day, but I try to use things that they're excited about. I don't necessarily hold it

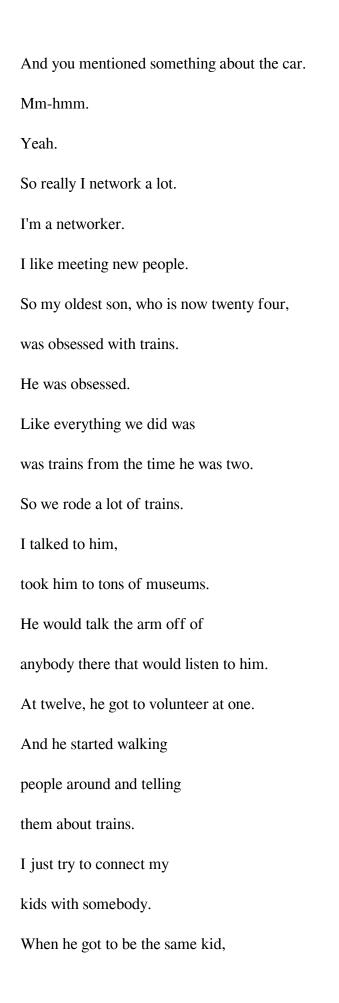
over their heads, but we use it as a target. If you wanna get to this point, what are the things that we have to do before that point? And I can use that with your, you know, they get thirty minutes computer time after they've done their schoolwork every day. And because we're not a big screen family, that's a big deal for them to get that computer time. And so I just use little targets. You know, we had a zoo trip coming up. And I said, I can pay to get you into the zoo, but anything you want inside the zoo, any of the rides, you're going to have to earn your own money. And so they did. They had a deadline for earning money and they had

a motivation to do that. So I try to use real life examples as much as I can. I try to, I mean, that also helps teach them to budget, right? If they know something's coming up and how to budget for it, but always giving them a goal to shoot for, right? And most of them are going to be goals within the day. But like the zoo trip was a goal that was a little further out, helping them think further out. But just try giving them goals so that they're motivated to do their own part. I'm thinking in my mind with my kids, because I'm still raising teenagers, I'm thinking what kind of immediate... I know screen

time is always a go-to and movie time,

but just some of those things that I... It could be pizza night. It could be let's do something together. My kids like doing dance night or game nights. And so we try to do things together. And so but it's like, OK, X, Y, Z has to happen before the next thing can happen. You know, that's that just constantly letting them know that it takes a team to do all the things. And if we all do our part, then we all get the reward at the end, whatever it is. I could even I mean, like you said, game night, like I love game night, having them pick out the game. Absolutely. Yeah. We've done that. We've done contests too.

Like the person who brought me the most, you know, pencils off the floor, you know, gets to be the one that picks out the movie for the night or whatever, you know, depending on what was going on that day. Or even like shopping on Amazon together. No, for games. I know my kids are really big into different types of games and stuff like that. And I even love some of those logic games that also teaches why you play, but they think it's fun. They don't realize they're doing it. Absolutely. Okay. And then the other thing that you mentioned that I thought was interesting is that you try to put them in contact with other experts in the area.



when he got to be in high school and he wanted to be a mechanic, he actually interned with another mechanic. He ended up getting the job. He now is the diesel mechanic for the Durango-Silverton Railroad. So he worked himself up to his dream job. But we did this by just networking and putting him in contact with people who know things about trains, because obviously I didn't know anything about trains. I don't even know how to do much to my own vehicle, nevertheless a train. So I had to reach out to the community to find people That would pour into my kiddos. I've got another one who wants to be a mechanic.

And so we had a gentleman from the church give him a seventy six Dodge pickup that he can rebuild. He's twelve years old and that's what he tinkers with is this truck outside. And so just reaching out to people in your community, because if they love something, they're going to want to share it as well. And that's where our kids really get this outside experience that we as parents can offer them just by networking. Yeah. And I think you mentioned church. Church is like a really great place because you have such a diverse group of people with different talents.

And we have someone at our congregation that I always sit back and I'm like, my kid should have that job because everything about his job kind of like fits in. And I'm waiting for the day that he connects. They've kind of talked about it a few times, but. I don't know anything because both of my boys, they want to be engineers and anything about engineering. You asked me about teaching and education. I can help right along engineering. I can't do a thing. And so I'm always looking for different people that just kind of connect them with. Absolutely. Yeah, that's a great way to do that. And just finding experts and

they don't have to be like, you know,

you can't you don't have to

find the top top expert on something.

Just somebody who loves it

as much as your kid loves it.

And so because not only

they're sharing knowledge,

they're sharing passion.

And that makes a difference.

Yeah, it really does.

Yeah.

yeah and and the other idea

too that that god always

brings the right people in

their path you know who

they can connect with

absolutely yeah and it's

really cool to sit back and

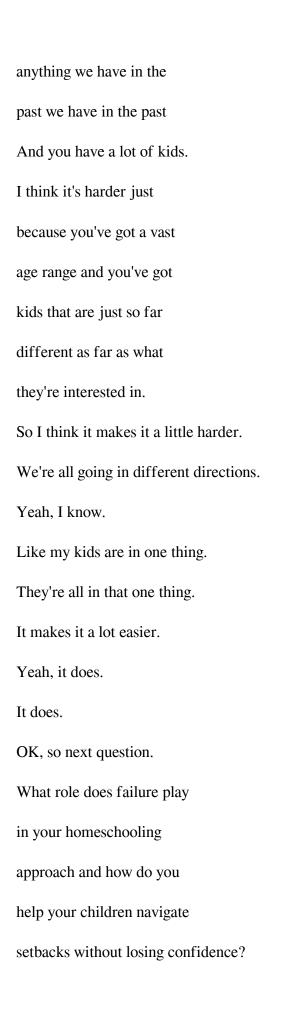
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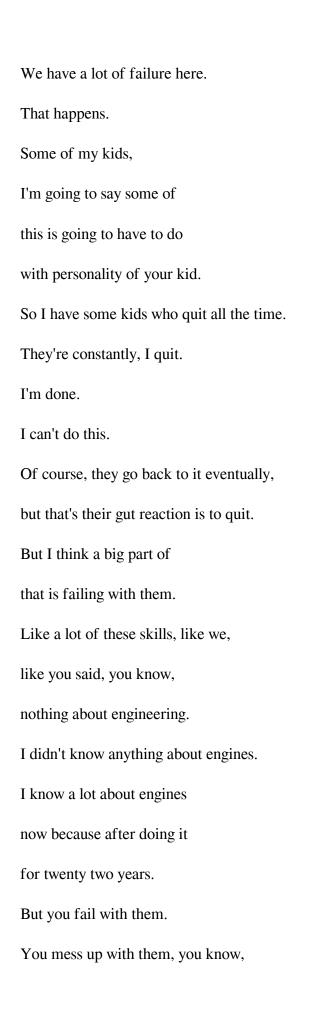
really cool um and I also

like the you know I don't

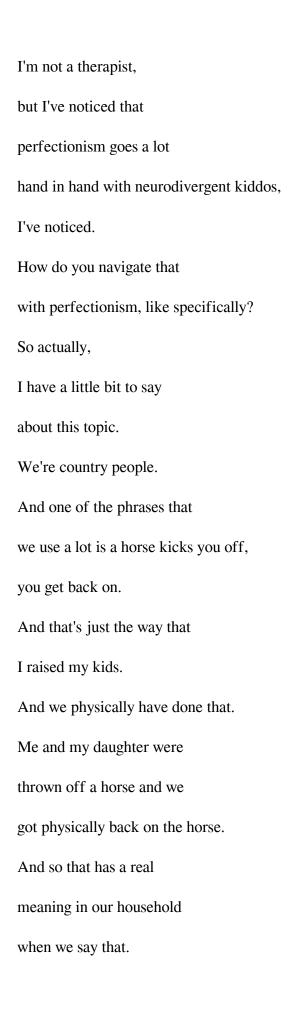
know do you do any home

homeschool co-ops or





and then seeing you try again, I think makes a big difference. And and then letting them know that it's OK that we failed. If you have a perfectionist kid, they're going to be really hard on themselves. And I think they're a little harder because they think they should do it right the first time. And so that's a little harder. But really, it's just life and letting them see you fail and get back up. and then doing it with them as well, whatever their project is that they're working on. Yeah. Well, and they all have different personalities. And you mentioned perfectionism, which I think that, I mean,



But it's true in all things.
And
I have a kid who is a perfectionist.
He thinks that he should
have to do it right the
first time or not do it at all.
So it's really hard.
He's my one that quits all
the time on everything.
And it takes a lot of
diligence on the parent's
part to keep pushing,
not in an aggressive way,
but we just constantly go back to it.
It's like,
I give him his break when he's
mad and he wants to quit.
I let him have his break.
I let him walk away.
And then we go back to it together.
He was really mad at his truck.
He wanted to sell all of it for parts.
He was done.

He wasn't going to do mechanics anymore.

And so I took him to our local auto shop,

who does a lot of old parts,

not just new parts.

I took him there.

And I said, hey, let's get some parts.

And so we got to talk to the

guy and ask about it.

And he hunted down some parts,

because finding parts for a.

and he hunted down some

parts um for him but you

know what he came home and

he was excited again and he

was working on his truck he

took his carburetor out and

put it in a box because he

learned that he'd have to

trade that one in for a new

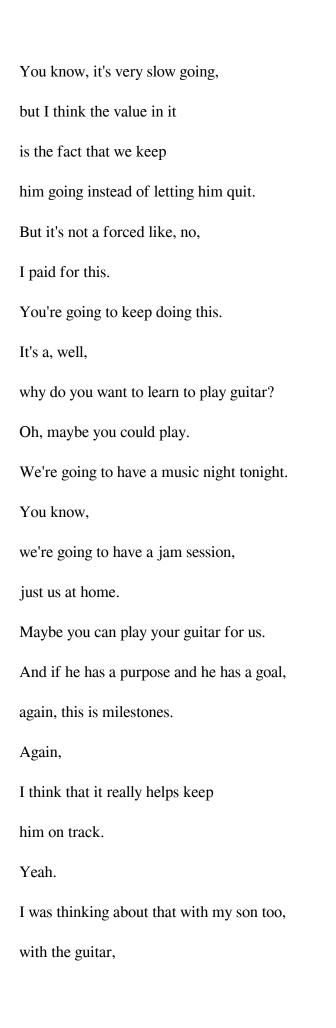
one um for the core

And so sometimes it just

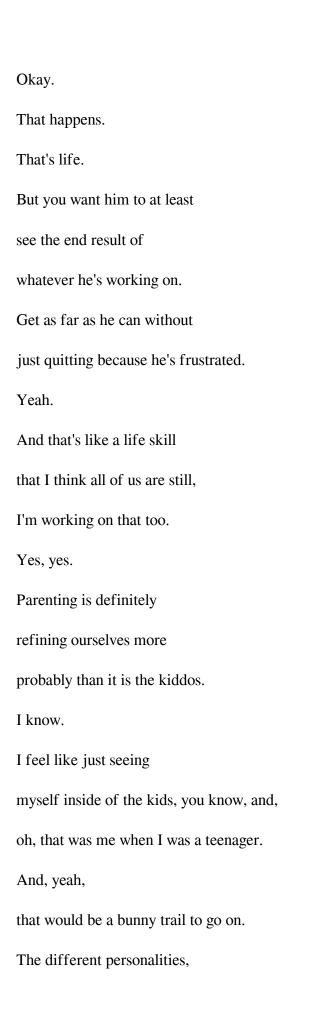
takes relighting that fire again.

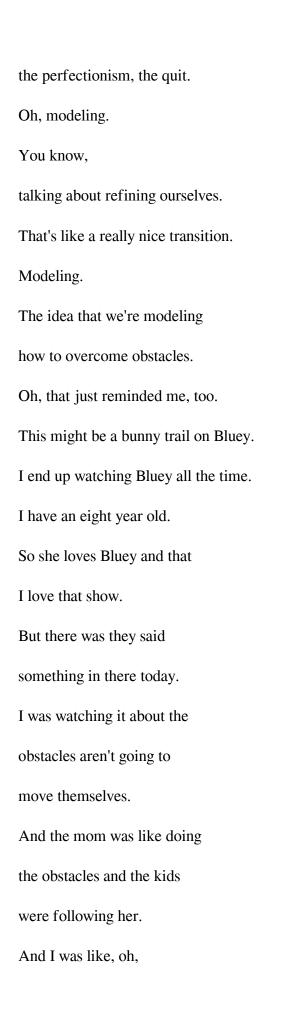
And we did it together.

And it wasn't like I was yelling at him or it wasn't like I was, you have to finish because you started this. It wasn't. It was like I let him have his moment. And then we found something else to talk about, found another entryway. It is very slow moving. You can't be in a hurry with these kids because if he's frustrated, he's not gonna do a good job. So if you're forcing him to do something and he's ready to quit, he's not gonna do a good job. So I really give him more time than I give any of my other kids. But when he, guitar is another example, he wanted to quit guitar. He's been practicing now for four years and he can finally play some chords.



because my son also plays guitar. And one thing that we got him involved with at our congregation, they started a youth band. I just simply just having him in the youth band, even though there was another guitar player, but they kind of teamed up and played together. It kind of helped motivate him. It was that fire that you were talking about, just lighting that fire. So they have to have that motivation to do it, you know, and you have to kind of help prod them along because you don't want them to quit and walk away from everything. You want them to learn how to finish. Yes. Some things aren't worthy to finish.





that is such beautiful

modeling and such a good teaching lesson.

Yeah.

anyway that was such a bunny

trail so so modeling though

like what are some things

that you can think of with

modeling for our kids um

besides like learning from

bluey well everything

they're always watching us

they're always watching us

you know how we oh gosh my worst

place is driving and the way

I react to other cars and I

know my kids are watching

me and so I really have to

you know control myself or

it gives me an opportunity

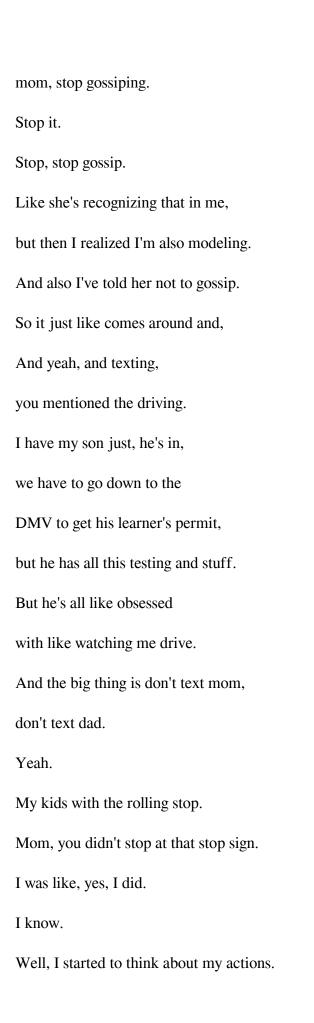
to talk about it hey I know

mom got really frustrated

with the cars today but

That's probably not the best

way to handle that. It does open up opportunities, but they're always watching us. They're watching everything we do and how we react to people, how we treat other people. Even simple things as phone skills, they're only hearing our side of the conversation when we're on the phone. What are they seeing? What are they learning from us without us actually teaching? Okay. So I was on the phone yesterday. Like this is full confession. I was on the phone yesterday and my daughter was sitting next to me, listening to own conversation. And I just started talking about some, I was. I'm just going through something right now, but she looks at me, she goes,



And, you know, coming from a Christian home, like every, you know, those things that I, my character, my personality, all those little things, my anger, that's another one. Like how many times when they were little that I just brushed them off or I got mad at them. And now that they're older, I'm seeing that come out of them. So. Yes, they're good copycats. Yeah. I also think with neurodivergent, a lot of them do, if I'm not mistaken, learn from doing and from their environment. So yeah, if you've got ADHD kids, they're definitely going to be your more hands-on learners by doing with you usually.

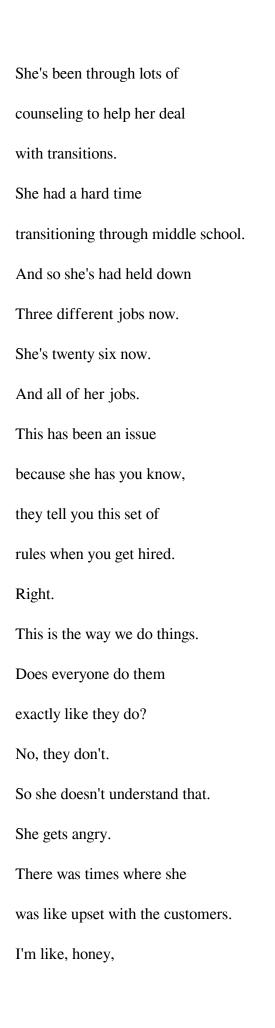
You know, if you have, you know, autistic kiddos who are Big, you know, got to follow the rules, have a set, and you're breaking those rules because sometimes there's things that are bendable, right? And a lot of times our neurodivergent kids don't understand that bend, that there's exceptions, that, you know, there's certain places where one thing is okay and another place where it's not okay. And so sometimes we just have to take a little extra time to explain that and help walk our kids through those situations. But yeah, they're always watching and we have to be careful. It doesn't mean that we have

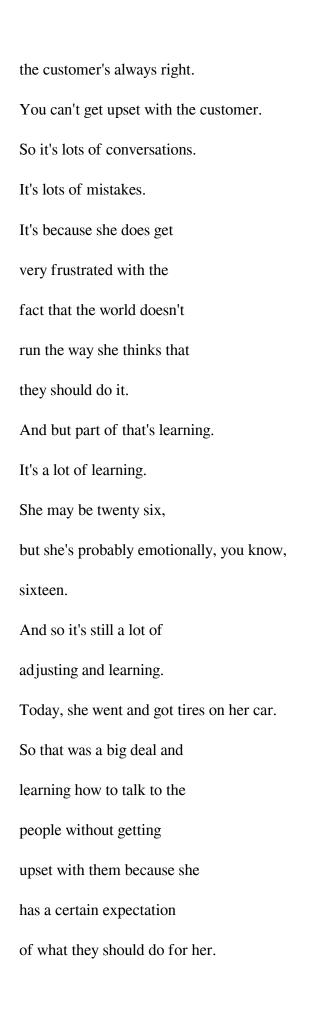
to be perfect. It's just noticing that and catching it and, you know, having those conversations with our kids. You know, why did we make that bad decision or why did we choose to go serve this family and not serve another family or whatever? you know, whatever we are doing, but living with our kids side by side. Do you, okay. I know you said you had kids with ADHD. Do you have any on the spectrum? So none that have been diagnosed on the spectrum, but because they do overlap, ADHD and autism overlap a lot. So I've got hints of OCD going on. So we've got a lot of the same issues in some of my kiddos. My deaf daughter is... She doesn't have any white

matter in her brain. And so she doesn't necessarily have a diagnosis for that other than she processes information very differently than normal people. And one of the things that she has done to understand the world, it's a very OCD habit, but she's very much all about checks and balances and lists and information. do's and don'ts. And she's very, you know, OCD about a lot of those things, because that's just how she's had to organize stuff in her brain to help her live in this world. And so I see a lot of that my my twelve year old is got ADHD among everything else.

He also has a lot of OCD tendencies. And I think he does that to help process the world around him to understand what he's seeing and how to interact with other people. So then, because I know we mentioned earlier where we talked about you run on a rhythm, not a schedule. And you mentioned the daughter that it's by checks and balances. And I know with my daughter that has Down syndrome, like we have, like you do this in this order at this time. Everything's like very specific what you do. So then with the, how does that, like having that routine and not a schedule, how does that work?

OK, go ahead. Yeah, it doesn't sometimes. And part of that, I always felt like my daughter needed to learn to live in a world where everyone wasn't going to follow her schedule. Everyone wasn't going to go by her requirements. And I think part of that created where she did it herself. She's like, OK, everyone else isn't going to go by the schedule, but I am. And she started to take responsibility for her own schedule and her own order of things. Now, she is a firstborn, so she's a little headstrong. And so she just decided that was how she was going to do things. We have lots of frustration.





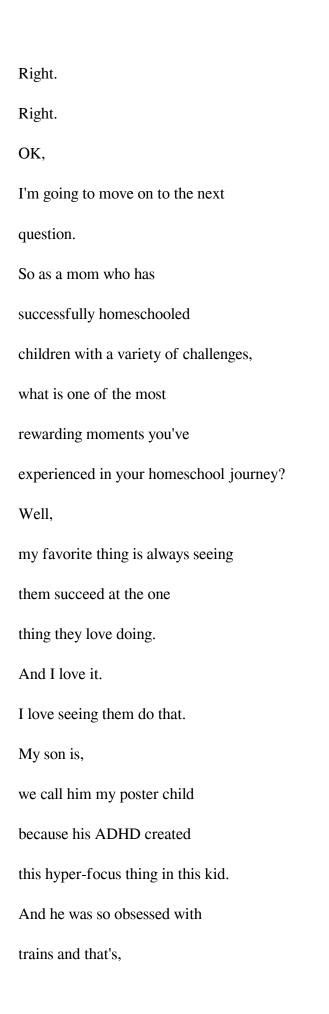
So it's a constant conversation and something, and I'm going to throw this in here, this little tidbit, because years ago when she was about twelve, I was really frustrated because I couldn't figure out what her brain was doing and I couldn't figure out why I couldn't teach this kid to read. And it was just really frustrating. And I found a neurodevelopmentalist and I cornered her because I just needed help. That poor woman. I was like, I need help. And so I told her, you know, what my daughter's MRIs look like. I told her about what she could and couldn't do. And I say,

I just need help with this child. And she looked at me and she said, Now, one, she goes, I'm going to let you know that from that MRI and what your child is doing, she shouldn't be able to do any of it. But her brain has compensated because our brains are amazing. And she's figured out how to do things. She goes, that's good. And you need to be happy and excited about that. She said, but second, everyone else thinks they're on an eighteen year plan with their kid. But some of us are on thirty year plans. You know, some of us, we need to get out of the mindset that our job is done in eighteen years.

And that is so true because our kids always need us, even when they're adults, even if they're neurotypical. Our kids need us. There isn't a there isn't a deadline for this parenting gig. But for our our kids that need a little more help. We need to prepare them to be independent as they possibly can. Yes. But we also need to be looking at it as a long-term goal. commitment relationship like we should anyway with any of our kids. But we need to get out of this eighteen year deadline. You know what I mean? Like we just need to think about this a little more long term. And my oldest has done very well for herself.

She's very independent.
She's lived on her own.
She's worked her own jobs.
She is back at home now.
But that was for personal reasons.
And she does very well.
She just needs help
navigating things sometimes.
And that's OK.
That's what we're here for.
Because we're all supposed
to kick our kids out when
they turn eight.
No,
I think that's funny how like we're
homeschooling and we're
homeschooling because we
don't want to do things the
way that the public school did.
Yet we still have some of
these ideas that randomly
pop in our head that are
directly taught from the

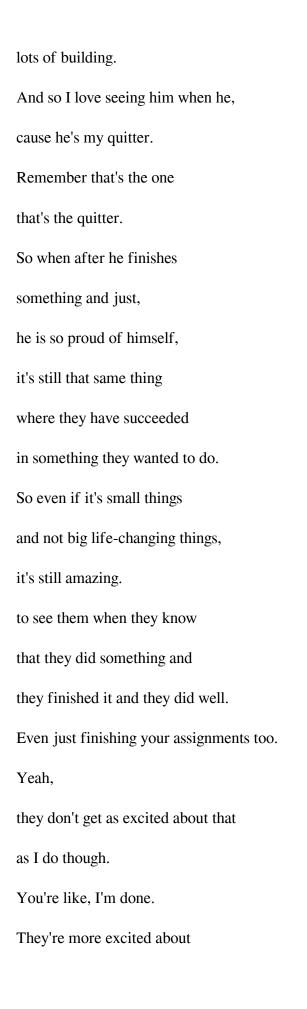
public school system.
Well, that's how we were taught.
Yeah.
Yeah.
That's how we were taught.
Yeah.
We're done.
Yeah.
Yeah.
I think that applies with everyone.
Not just
Neurodivergence or.
Absolutely.
Absolutely.
Yeah.
But we have to have our
mindset in the right place
so that we're not getting
like where we don't feel
like we messed up or we did
something wrong because our
kid isn't ready to launch at eighteen.
You know.

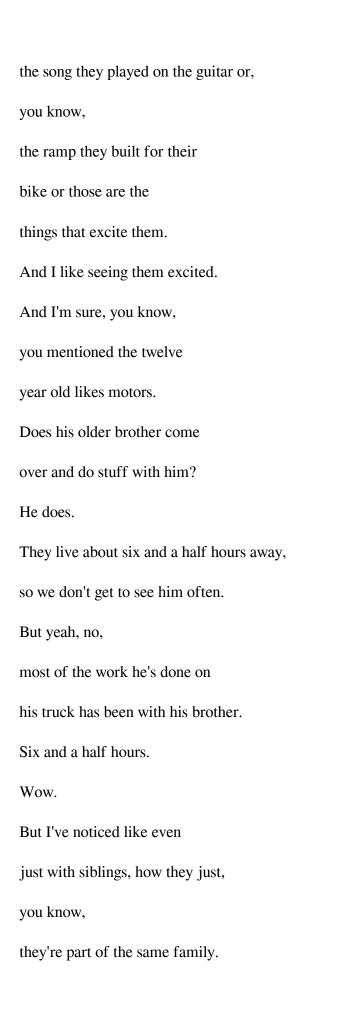


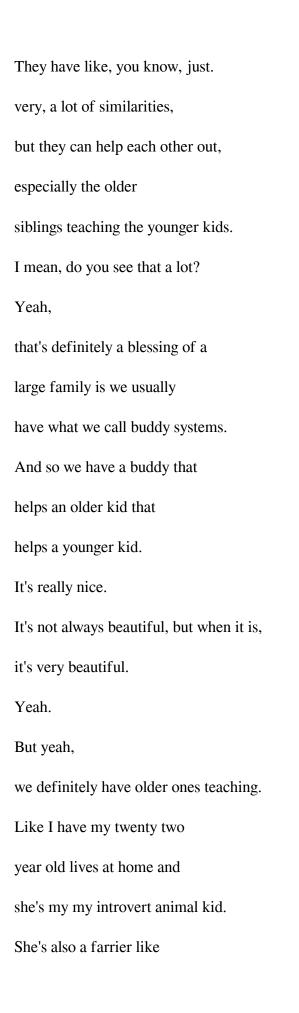
I just took it and ran with it. I was like, okay, you like trains. What are we going to do with trains? And we did, we wrote papers about trains and we did, Studies of aerodynamics. And, you know, we turned everything we could into trains. We've ridden trains all across the United States. And so seeing him take that and then learn how to be a diesel mechanic and then take that and learn actually do diesel mechanics on trains. is seeing him progress in the one thing he loves and now he's a daddy. So that's even really fun. Just seeing them succeed is my just, it's just the icing on the cake. Like I just love seeing them

succeed at the one thing that they just love. My deaf daughter is obsessed with flowers. She went to floral design school and has her certificate in floral design, and she just loves it. She's also very good at photography. So seeing her take her skills and her talents, even with all of her challenges, and be able to just, in her mind, succeed at something that she loves, that is my reward for all of this. It's just seeing my kids use the talents that God gave them to do the thing that they were created to do. What about the little kids? Because I don't think you mentioned much about them. if that's okay asking. Yeah, no, it's fine.

Yeah.
People always want to know
the end results.
So we usually talk about the older kids,
you know, because they're kind of,
you know, I'm done.
Now they have to do their
part kind of thing.
It's like, okay,
how did I get them to point A to point B?
But the little kids, I mean,
we talk about my
twelve-year-old a lot too.
He's one that we call him
our alphabet soup kid
because unfortunately that
kid got everything in our family.
But he's also very
interested in motors and the things,
the way things work.
And so
We do lots of hands-on things.
lots of power tools, lots of tinkering,







she's very into animals. And then my fourteen year old is also my introvert animal kid. And so those two do a lot together. They're always out doing the goats and the chickens and the rabbits. And and those two really like to work outside together. Oh, you have goats and chickens and rabbits. Yeah, we have a little home spread. Yes, well, we always got stuff to do. ADHD people can't be bored, you know? Yeah, we'll go crazy. No, you're just like, it's so funny when you said to me, like, it doesn't always go well. No, not always. But like, there are bad days, too. Yes. And, you know, personalities clash, you know, and when you live with somebody, you know, all their stuff, you know,

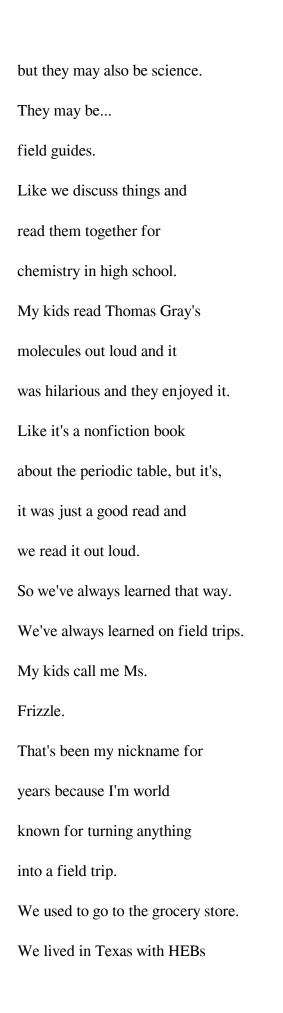
all the good stuff, all the bad stuff. And so it's a little easier to get upset with them when they do things. dumb things. And so we have siblings that don't agree with each other. We have siblings that don't like each other. But you know what? I always told my kids, because my oldest was very difficult to live with and her personality. And I always raised my kids with, you know, sometimes we have to learn how to hug the porcupine. And y'all get to practice every day, hugging the porcupine. And that's just part of, you know, showing God's love to everyone around us. And so we have to be able to to love the, hug the porcupine sometimes.

And that's what we're doing. Have you ever gotten like little stuffed porcupine? We have a stuffed, okay. Well, it's not really a porcupine. It's close. You know, I was thinking modeling. I don't know why my brain went in that direction, but modeling with a porcupine. Or like a pin, no, that wouldn't be safe. Well, my daughter, my twenty two year old actually works with zoo animals and they she actually takes care of two porcupines. And so she's taken the little guys to go meet them and they always bring me home porcupine quills. And so that's a very good visual. OK, yes. There could be so many jokes.

I could think of so many different jokes. But I'm thinking using those real-world examples or even having inside jokes like that, too, helps. Actually, what is it? I heard when you have laughter, it's connected with memory, and you remember things more. Sure. So I don't know. Yeah, we definitely have our jokes. Well. one of my things was I raised my kids to understand their differences, their challenges. My first daughter being deaf, and she had to wear a hearing aid. I always told her, I was like, you wear a hearing aid, but I have to wear glasses. I was like, we all have challenges. We all have something we have to overcome.

But if we can figure out what that is,
then we can find the right
tools to help us overcome them.
And so we are always making
jokes about our differences.
We're always making fun of
ourselves because we are
broken people and none of us are perfect.
And that's not the
expectation at the Johnson household.
We are not perfect.
Right.
And no judgment either.
Right.
It's just how God made us.
And now we learn how to work
with that and do the best that we can.
Yeah, I love that.
Okay, so the next question is,
how can families create a
homeschooling environment
that supports supports both
neurodivergent learners and

the parents needs? So it's going to be different for every family, right? Every family has different requirements that they want to see. It's always changing, I will say, because as our kids grow, their needs change. And so it is a constantly changing thing. The one thing that's been consistent for us is the way that we learn things in the sense of like, Like I said, I've never been good with a schedule. I don't think we've ever had a schedule in all of my homeschooling. I probably tried at the very beginning and failed miserably. I was like, okay, this isn't going to work. But we do lots of read-alouds. And read-alouds may be fiction,



and they always had this big, huge cheese section. And so we would go to the cheese section and we'd talk about how they make cheese and where it comes from, like what because some of them came all the way from Italy. And I would turn that into a field trip. I would turn everything into a field trip. Lots of hands-on things. And then at home, just we have craft supplies that are available. We have Legos that are available. We have wood and nails and things outside. Just giving them opportunities to explore. We have a garden. And not everybody can do everything, right? I think when you have more kids, you have more hands to do different things.

And so that helps as well.

But really,

it was just constant opportunity,

either through materials or

through networking and

people and just putting my

kids in touch with these things.

And that's kind of my only

consistent thing I've done.

um over the last twenty some

odd years um our days look

different all the time um

we just have our bare

minimums we have to get

through so parents needs

kids needs they change all

the time and you just kind

of have to be willing to

change with them and make

it work and there is a

balance I mean I need one

of my things is I can't

have stuff everywhere I

need a path through my house I don't want to walk over your piles of legos and I don't want to walk over you know, whatever creation. So for me, I'm like, guys, you're going to have to find a home for this. And, and so that's just one of my requirements. And, you know, but their requirement is that they have Legos that they can get out and dig and whatever with them. And, and so you have to find that balance, whatever stage you're at and just figure out what's going to work. And sometimes you try things and they don't work and you just got to try something else. Yeah.

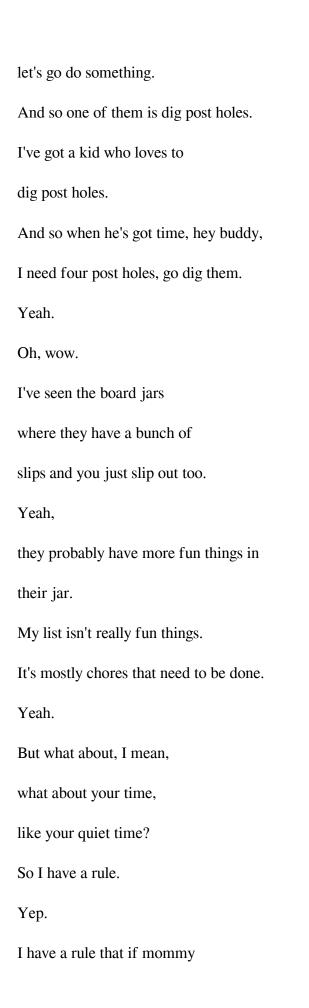
I keep it when you said the grocery store, I keep I keep imagining you with your kids at the grocery store and like all the other people around just kind of listening in. And then by the end, you have this group of people following you like at a museum. It definitely starts conversations, I will say. Yeah. With like, yeah, definitely. And then also I was thinking, mom needs to get groceries. We're going to make a field trip. That's a need that we need. And I love the more kids, more hands. Because I'm listening to you. And when you said that, I was like, oh, yeah, she has eight kids. Because I was like, I don't have a garden. I don't have a farm.

but I also don't have any kids right more hands kids right but in time it's hard it I would think I don't know you correct me if I'm wrong that it's hard to find things for them to do sometimes or are they always I think that there's a skill in that there's a skill in teaching our kids how not to be bored Like if you're bored, that means you need to find something to do. And my kids have learned. So, so it's funny. My older kids learned, you don't tell mom you're bored. And I never taught that to my younger kids, but the older kids taught

You don't tell mom you're bored.

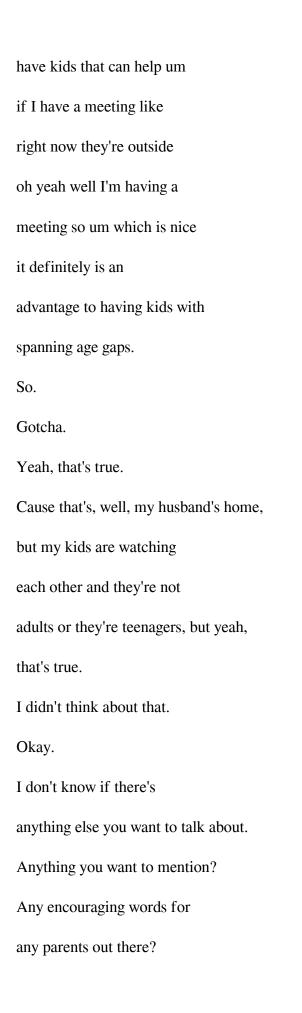
the younger kids.

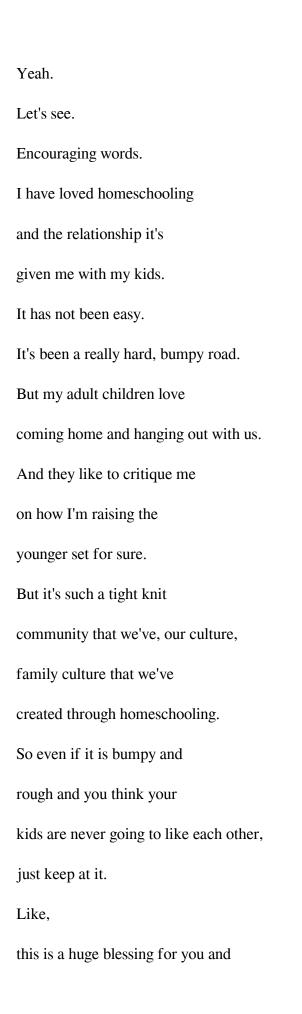
She will find something for you to do. And so we have something hanging up in our house called the board board. And I have a list of things. If you are bored, here's a list of things that can be done. And so they've just learned not to tell me that they're bored because then they're going to have to go do a chore they don't want to do. And so they get good at finding things to do. Nice. So it's like a little, like a board. It is. It's a dry erase board. And it's B-O-R-E-D, bored, bored, B-O-A-R-D, the bored board. And I write on it the tasks that need to be done. And so if you're bored,



has hot coffee in her hand, you can't climb on her. You can't, you got to leave her alone. So I get my coffee time. As long as I have hot coffee in my hand, then they leave me alone. I think some of the moms are like, well, then I'll just hold my coffee all day long. Yeah. I think they would say that that wasn't fair. I think my kids would call me out on that if I did that. yeah no I get it I like that rule a lot um do they do they also watch each other so that you can have a moment to escape if you need it yeah I mean I have adult children that live at home so that's a little

different for us because I





your family. And it has been really a blessing for us. Um, and like I said, it has definitely been refining for myself. Like I have had to grow up so much and I've had to really lean on the Lord for help through a professionals to include, which therapies, which doctors. When I started, I'm just going to reach out to the special needs community here really, is that when I started with my daughter and we were having two, three, four doctor's appointments every week, all the testing and your whole life kind of revolves around your special need kiddo and the other ones kind of feel left behind.

It's just a season. And I let my kids know that this is just a season. And I always try to make time for each kid so that they would know that it's not all about, you know, my oldest in her sense. And now it's my twelve year old. We're going to all the appointments for, you know. There's going to be the right people for them and the right season. And so even though we do therapy, that doesn't mean we're always going to do therapy. We only do it for when I feel like it is breathing life into our family. It is breathing life into my child. But there are times to take breaks. You're not going to ruin your kid taking a break from therapy,

you know.

God chose that child to be

the way that they are for a

purpose and a reason.

And I just find beauty in that.

And now I can say that

because I'm looking back on

years and years of doing this.

And I know that when we're

in the heat of it,

it's really hard and it's

really exhausting.

And you just feel like

you're not doing anything right.

I put my oldest in school

when she was in fifth grade

because I thought I could

never teach her to read.

I was completely,

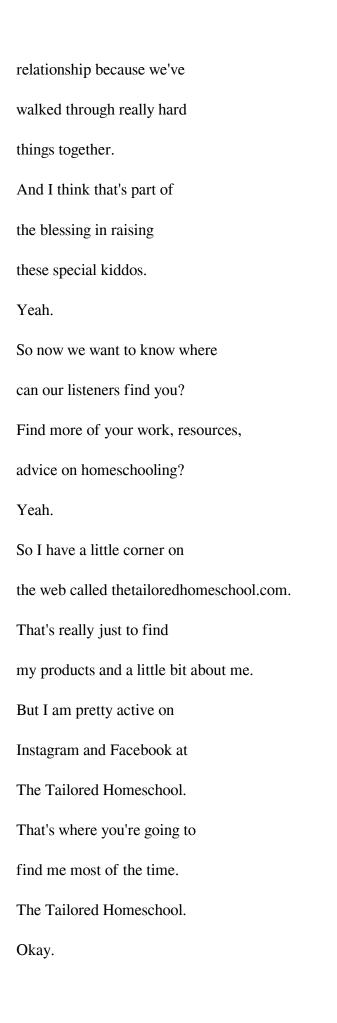
I thought I was going to

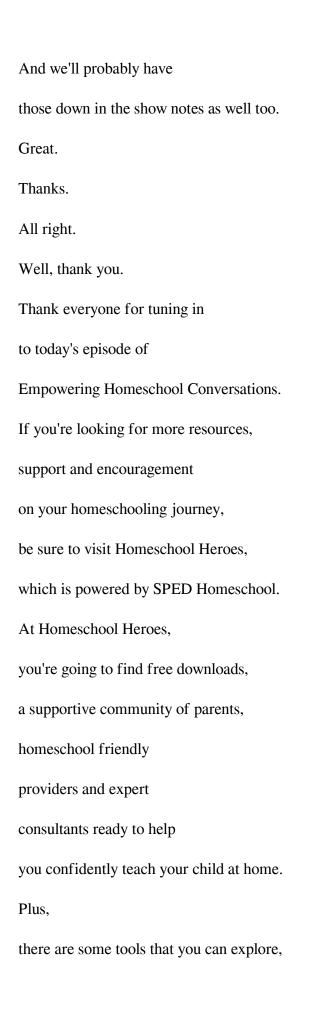
ruin her because she wasn't

reading past the first

grade reading level and she

was at fifth grade. And I put her in school and the teacher had the exact same problems teaching her to read that I did. So it wasn't me, it was her brain. It was the way her brain functions. Language is a frontal cortex thing and she has a really hard time accessing frontal cortex. And so it's just her. And so just having that teacher who was a wonderful Christian lady walk beside me and help me through that was a real growing experience for me in that because I realized that I am doing good for my daughter and we have a relationship. It hasn't been beautiful all the way through, but we have a really strong





products, services designed to simplify your homeschooling efforts, all from a trusted nonprofit that understands the unique challenges of homeschooling children with learning differences. So join us at spedhomeschool.com to connect with resources, inspiration, and a community that's here for you every step of the way. So let's make your homeschool journey extraordinary. And once again, I just want to thank you so much for chatting with me today and with our audience. And I know a lot of people appreciate this. Thank you so much for having me. It was a lot of fun.

Good.
I'm so glad.
It was fun, too.
It was a nice little break.
A nice little break from life.
Absolutely.
All right.
Thank you.
Thank you.
This has been Empowering
Homeschool Conversations
provided by Sped Homeschool,
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