



Happy New Year,

It's time to take stock of what you have accomplished so far this school year and make your plans for the remainder of the year.

I want to take a minute to recommend a book by a friend of mine, Suzanne Gose, called ***How to Learn Anything***. This is a really good book for explaining how people learn and what the obstacles are to learning. Take a look at it at flipfloplearning.com.

Bob and I are hoping to see a good number of you again at the conventions this year. Check out our schedule so you can meet us.

Sincerely,
Bob and Gail

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News & Events

conventions this year include:

LEAH: March 17th,
Long Island, NY

Midwest Home-
school Convention:

Cincinnati, Ohio;
April 4-6

CHAP: Harrisburg,
PA; May 10-11

If you would like to get together with a group of parents to look at and touch Applied Grammar, give me a call and we will set up a time to send you the materials to look at and do a Skype question and answer time.

Work on the Language Lessons for Autistic children is underway. There are a

You can find past copies of the newsletter [here](#).

We also have a [page](#) with links to articles that we find interesting.

lot of plans for puppets, lessons on DVD, songs for everyday vocabulary and some resource materials for non verbal children. I can't wait to pull it all together and get it out to you.

Featured Article

Strategies for a Distracted Talker



I have a student who has a problem with distracting herself from her work by talking about whatever pops into her head. Homework time becomes a yelling time for both mom and child when she just won't stop talking and get to work. Here are my strategies to try. Choose whichever one you think will work.

1. She obviously wants to talk to her mom about her day. Sit down with a healthy snack and give her a little undivided attention and let her talk about her day. I really looked forward to sitting down at the kitchen table with my mom for about 15 minutes each day after school. Those are memories that last a life time, and it gave continued bonding time for my mom and I throughout the growing up years.
2. When it is time to do homework, give her 5 talking cards. Take one away after each time she talks. Once the cards are gone and she talks again, the homework help is over and she does the rest by herself. This will teach her to limit her expressions of "popcorn" thoughts.
3. Have an abacus handy? Try moving a bead to one side each time she talks. Allow her to move a bead to the other side each time she has a "popcorn" thought and refrains from speaking it out loud. Allow her to write a key word on a note card to remind herself later of what she wanted to tell you.

4. Helping an impulsive person stop the thoughts from coming out of their mouth is not an easy task. It is even harder for her to put the breaks on before the words come out. Usually, she first must learn to stop mid-sentence, only then realizing that she is actually speaking the thought and not just thinking it.