



Dear Friends,

I spent last Monday morning at a local home school co-op and was pleased to see the dedication which these parents have for their children's education. I taught a class as a substitute for my daughter and was again impressed with the students' thirst to learn.

I was grateful to spend the morning with the homeschooling community. Thank you to all parents out there who take their children's education seriously. You are not only blessing your children and your family, but also the communities and nation in which you live. Thank you and be encouraged to keep on doing the hard things that make good parents worth their weight in gold.

Sincerely,
Bob and Gail

**Winner of the Free Set of
Applied Grammar is.....**

Monica Tatroe

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News & Events

Hear ye, Hear ye!

The research for the Language Lessons for Autistic children is underway. If you are excited about a particular author or researcher, please let me know.

Due to the high level of frustration with handwriting that I encounter, I am beginning a handwriting course beginning with pre-writing.

We are currently working on our schedule for next year. As most of you know, Bob takes his vacation time to do conventions

*Dear Monica,
Drop me an e-mail with your address, and I will get your
free set out to you immediately.
Sincerely,*

Gail Brubaker

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

We cannot make it to every one. We will do our best to get to one near you if you let us know of your desire.

You might also want to

[sign up for e-tutoring](#)

so that your student gets the benefit of having someone new edit and correct their work, as well as give them written assignments.

Featured Article

Specifics for what do I do if my child is "not getting it."



1. Are there any assumptions that I am making that are not true?

When we teach small children, we often assume that they think like us. This is a dangerous assumption to make. Often when children do not understand something, it is because their perception of what we are showing them, or explaining to them is different than ours. Their problem is that they are not experienced enough to tell us what it is exactly that they are not understanding, so our conversation with them gets exasperating.

Do not assume any prior knowledge if your child is having difficulty understanding. Asking them what they **do** know is very helpful since they are usually very good at telling us what they know. It is during this kind of conversation that you learn if they

really do know it, or just think they know it.

I had a student once that made up his own way to do long division. He did not understand the importance of following my instructions, looked at one answer to one problem we had done, and made his own conclusions as to how that answer got there. Then he followed his own way of doing it and got the answers wrong. Of course he was very young in third grade, and so he had no idea why his answers were wrong because in his mind he had done them all the same way. As far as he was concerned, he had done them the right way- his way. So we had to have a conversation about how he can make up his own way with *some things*, but not long division. I would then tell him before I taught him something if this was something for which he could make up his own way or not.

Please do not assume that your child does not understand because they are lazy or they are simply not listening. I remember my father trying to teach me to tell time. I did not understand it at all. He tried to show me how a clock worked by drawing gears, I remember paying attention so hard and trying to understand. He would get angry at me for not understanding him.

Generally speaking, if your child does not understand it is because you have not yet found a way to explain it to her so that it can make sense. My father, bless him, tried his best to teach me math, but I ended up feeling stupid and have battled with freezing if asked to do any math in front of adults ever since. Probably, I have a weakness in Math that was harmed, not helped by his teaching methods.

Be flexible with your teaching methods and try different things until you find a way to connect with your child's thought processes. Also, don't assume that just because you are the parent you know all of your child's thoughts. Research their perceptions to find where the problem is.