


BEYOND
THE BOX
learning



WELCOME PACK

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WELCOME TO

Beyond the Box Learning

I am so excited that you made the choice to join us in this community of courageous parents who believe in the innate ability of their beyond the box learners.

We know our kids aren't disabled but learn differently and therefore need to be taught differently.

We are on a journey of learning to take advantage of the freedom we have in homeschooling our outside-the-box kids.

In this group, you will find the support, resources, mentorship, and encouragement to keep you going through the year as you teach your kids with language-based learning difficulties.

Our kids are smart! Now we can teach them to their strengths while we help strengthen their weaknesses all while doing life and pursuing interests together.

I am here for you! You can reach me at any time at marianne@homeschoolingwithdyslexia.com.

Learning with you,

Marianne Sunderland

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM

Beyond the Box Learning

MASTER CLASSES: These monthly classes are taught by some of the brightest and most heartfelt experts in the field of learning differences. From scientists, to therapists, to authors, to teachers, these classes will deepen your understanding of learning differences while providing you with tools and insights to help you as you teach your own children.

SUCCESS STORIES: There is nothing so fascinating to me as to hear different journeys of people parenting kids with dyslexia and others growing up dyslexic, finding their passion, and successfully pursuing it. There is so much to be learned from these success stories!

BOOK CLUBS: Our slow and steady book clubs for parents take us through a variety of books about homeschooling, learning differences, and parenting. Taking a chapter a week, we read and meet online to discuss each week. Sessions will be recorded in case you're unable to attend live.

LIVE CHATS: Probably my favorite part of Beyond the Box Learning is our monthly Live Chats. We gather together to ask questions, offer support, or just sip a cup of tea (or wine!) and visit with other like-minded moms and dads.

KIDS BOOK CLUBS: Led by my sons Ben and Paul, kids will read through a book of interest and gather via Zoom to share their thoughts (and a few jokes as well!).

CHALLENGES: Whether it's a challenge to read out loud daily, implement a new strategy each week, or get outside more, our challenges are a fun way to work together to build new habits with support from our group.

There is an ever growing library of resources available to you. I encourage you to never feel behind or as if you need to watch all the recordings at once. Instead, look at the library as a resource. Check out classes as they are needed or pique your curiosity. There is no behind. We are all learning and growing together!

YOUR SUCCESS PATH

Over the years, I've gone from being overwhelmed and fearful to confident and peaceful as I teach my kids at home. *There was a steep learning curve to get this left-brained, linear-thinking, non-dyslexic to understand and appreciate her houseful of dyslexic learners!*

Over the years, through my blog and speaking around the country about homeschooling kids with dyslexia, I've noticed that other parents are all going through these same stages. It's quite a journey learning to balance our kids' academic needs while allowing them to grow and enjoy their strengths.

The purpose of our group is to take you through those stages as quickly and efficiently as possible and maybe even have some fun along the way.

By identifying which step you're on in the Beyond the Box Learning Success Path you'll know what kinds of things to focus on so you can have more peace and less overwhelm.

THE SUCCESS PATH

Step 1: Cautious

I was at this stage when our oldest was diagnosed with dyslexia at the age of 7 1/2. I had no idea what dyslexia was. We had no money for tutors. Parents at this stage are fearful and cautious because they lack the knowledge and vital skills to be able to teach with confidence.

Things you might be feeling at this stage are feelings of overwhelm. Maybe you're highly anxious at the thought of homeschooling your child.

You may be anxious or worried that you are failing your child or that you will fail your child if you try to teach them yourself. This stage is characterized by a massive lack of confidence.

ACTION TASKS:

- Get connected to our Beyond the Box Learning Mighty Network group.
- Download the welcome packet.
- Prep your binder.
- Commit to attending a live chat. (Many parents at this stage feel alone and like they are the only ones going through this difficulty.)

Believe it or not, even after homeschooling for over 20 years I still highly enjoy and get a ton of value out of our monthly live chats. We're all in this together.

In Stage 1, the box of traditional learning feels safe and stepping outside the box seems frightening and overwhelming.

THE SUCCESS PATH

Step 2: Confined

As I struggled with my fears about teaching our oldest to read without knowledge about dyslexia or support, I clung to one thing that I did know. My 7-year-old was super creative and intelligent.

This is when I began to realize that the box of traditional education may not be the best for my child. I began to reevaluate what I always believed about education and school. I took a HUGE step back to look at the big picture and began to see that my son's path was going to look different from my own as a traditional learner.

I call this stage confined because my child was being harmed by my narrow view of what education could be. My love and concern for my child propelled me to believe that there were ways to help him to learn.

Things you might be feeling in this stage are excitement to be embarking on a journey of learning. There is still a fair amount of fear and doubt but you are hopeful about looking more intently at beyond-the-box education and how you can learn to teach your kids how they learn best.

During this stage you are beginning to explore ways to help your child with learning differences.

ACTION TASKS:

- Watch 2 to 3 success stories and fill out the note taking page.
- Watch the Success Attributes Master Class. Print up and fill out a note taking page.
- Continue to attend as many live chat sessions as possible. Speak up, ask questions, get to know the group!

In Stage 2, the box appears stifling. You are open to learning different ways to teach and hopeful that better days are ahead.

THE SUCCESS PATH

Step 3: Courageous

During this stage you are learning and becoming more aware of the unique learning style and timeline of the child with language-based learning difficulties like dyslexia.

Family and friends may be questioning your methods which is unsettling at times.

Things you may be thinking at this stage are that you have learned some new strategies, principles, and systems and they are resonating with you and your child. You may be feeling less alone and start to relate more with people in our group.

Some things that you may be doing at home are trying out new strategies, implementing some of the mindset teachings, and feeling like you are beginning to move in the right direction.

ACTION TASKS:

- Continue to watch the Beyond the Box Learning recordings, including the Master Class on teaching kids to have a Growth Mindset and How to Set Goals for kids with Learning Differences.
- Print up the note taking pages for each Master Class and Success Story to personalize your learning by examining any attitudes and beliefs you may have had that have held you and your child back in the past.

Document these and share them in our group!

In Stage 3, you are bravely trying new strategies and mindsets even though you may be unsure of the outcome.

THE SUCCESS PATH

Step 4: Constructing

During this stage you are understanding more and more how to accommodate real learning in your kids. Your positive experiences are helping you to modify curriculum and teach your kids with less confusion and guilt. You may still get bogged down at times when new things come up but you know how to get the help and information that you need.

During this stage you may be feeling more confidence. You may be feeling more creative. You may feel like you can tell what's not working so you can choose things that meet the needs of your kids with better accuracy and of course you are becoming more confident that your kids will find their unique path.

Things that you should be focusing on in this stage are tapping into the group and Marianne as needed for guidance and information.

Since you're having more good days than bad, you are sharing in the group things that are working with you and encouraging those who are not so far along on the path. You're keeping up with the Success Stories and Master Classes and continuing to journal.

To grow stronger in this phase you should be doing these action tasks.

ACTION TASKS:

- Commit to watching the Master Class on Learning Stages and the Unique Trajectory of Learning of the Child with Dyslexia.
- Print up and fill out a note taking page for each Master Class or Success Story you watch or listen to.
- Complete the worksheets and participate in the monthly live chats sharing what you have learned.

In Stage 4, you're less and less tempted to jump back into the box. You are experiencing more and more success in the day to day. You are building a toolbox of strategies for teaching and learning that work.

THE SUCCESS PATH

Step 5: Confident

During this stage, your ever expanding experience and knowledge are helping you to have the confidence to teach your unique kids. You regularly experience peaceful days and have the peace of mind and confidence to know that you are on the right path.

You begin to notice others who are having similar struggles to you and are able to guide and encourage them.

You know how to get the support you and your children need within the BTBL group and elsewhere.

While we are all always learning, you have the confidence that you are on the right path and if that changes, you can change with your circumstances.

In Stage 5, you spend most of your time living, learning, and teaching outside the box. When tempted to hop back in the box, you find the support and resources you need to keep going strong.

THE SUCCESS PATH

the journey to a successful, unique-to-you homeschool

STEP
1

CAUTIOUS

In Stage 1, the box of traditional learning feels safe and stepping outside the box seems frightening and overwhelming.

STEP
2

CONFINED

In Stage 2, the box appears stifling. You are open to learning different ways to teach and hopeful that better days are ahead.

STEP
3

COURAGEOUS

In Stage 3, you are bravely trying new strategies and mindsets even though you may be unsure of the outcome.

STEP
4

CONSTRUCTING

In Stage 4, you're less and less tempted to jump back into the box. You are building a toolbox of strategies for teaching and learning that work.

STEP
5

CONFIDENT

In Stage 5, you spend most of your time living, learning, and teaching outside the box. When tempted to hop back in the box, you find the support and resources you need to keep going strong.

YOUR BEYOND THE BOX *Binder*

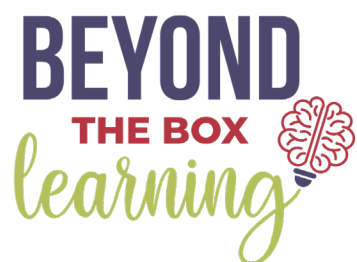
Located in this welcome pack are forms for you to keep your materials organized. I recommend keeping a binder with notes and resources you've gathered from BTBL.

Forms include:

- A cover sheet for your binder
- Dividers for Master Classes, Success Stories, Book Clubs, and Challenges
- Note taking pages with journal or thought prompts
- A copy of the BTBL Success Path

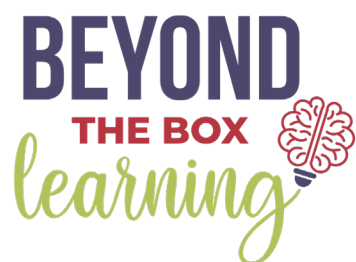


MASTER CLASSES



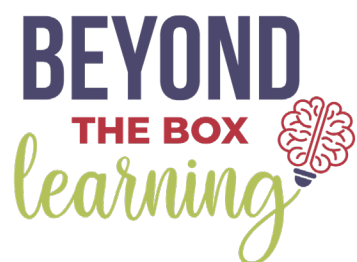


SUCCESS STORIES



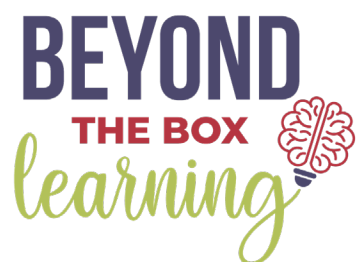


BOOK CLUBS





CHALLENGES



MASTER CLASSES

Master Class Title: _____

Presenter: _____

Date: _____

Resources Mentioned: _____

Notes:

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

LIVE CHATS

Live Chat Topic: _____

Presenter: _____

Date: _____

Resources Mentioned: _____

Notes:

KEY TAKEAWAYS:
