

records when you open new course (ie: Pre-Algebra to Algebra I), review is possible, but just not as easy as flipping the book open to where you need to review, no book.

BJU - (all we've used of theirs was 9th grade Geography book and tests, bought used) Pros for us: Good book, Christian world view, easy to use, fairly independent use, easy to grade, thorough. Cons for us: more challenging to document learning (couldn't just copy the Table of Contents), very 'school-like' (maybe not a con), new materials are pretty expensive but easy to find used. Compromise: Toward end of year we realized he was not going to finish in time if he continued doing all the section reviews, so ended up just having him read each of the chapters and taking the chapter tests- worked pretty well! I used his daily work on section reviews as quiz grade each quarter to keep him accountable and doing work each day. My neighbors used nothing but BJU for their two children K-12. They used the satellite videos in high school for sciences. Videos are of teacher teaching just your child and talking as if your child is right there (kind of cool). Neighbor's children: both are married, daughter is an elementary teacher in private school, son is getting master's degree in music and teaching also!

I have only good things to say about **Explode the Code, A Reason For Writing, and All About Spelling** (great program for more challenged learners- based on Orton-Gillingham method).

Highly recommended book: **Hinds' Feet on High Places** for children by Hannah Hurnard- will impact Mom as well as kids- maybe more!

Encouraging words:

It's not a question of what's 'good' but what's 'best'!

Enthusiasm is contagious!

Better to learn small amounts well than large amounts of nothing.

Nothing worth anything happens without effort!

I can do all things through Christ Jesus who strengthens me!

The 'process' matters more than the 'product' most of the time.

The little things do matter.

Will this really be important 5 years from now?

Put away that red pen until it learns to encourage and not tear down!!!! (a regret of mine)

Get messy! Yes, you will waste paper, time, craft supplies and make a mess, but this is where the learning happens!

Write every day for the fun of it, Read every day for the fun of it, Play every day for the fun of it! Enjoy doing it together!!!

Plan days off for field trips, catching up, sick days, working on big projects, self-guided deeper studies, the occasional shaving cream pie fight...

Celebrate the beginning of the school year and the end of the school year in some way!

Don't spend the last week frantically trying to finish that book! The public schools don't! Have parties, watch movies, play outside, do a special end of the year project/craft/scrapbook the year...

Ask God to help you control your tongue every day! Realize He is with you, beside you when you are with your children and listening to everything you say to them, whether it be encouraging, loving, patient words or impatient, frustrated, stabbing words. He will help you to close your mouth when you need to, to ask for forgiveness when you need it and to speak through you when you allow Him to!