The Fluidity of Truth

As parents, we know truth changes. One minute, your toddler loves peas; the next, they hate them. A well-loved story could have been demanded hundreds of times when it’s suddenly discarded. One day, our pre-teens are best friends with the neighbor—next, the next, bitter rivals. Childhood is constantly evolving; so why do we expect there to be an ultimate correct answer for how to teach our children? Gather a group of new homeschooling parents together, and inevitably there are questions:

“What is the best way to teach my children math?”

“My kid is going to start high school; what subjects should I teach?”

“My child is 2 years old; what’s the best way to teach them to read?”

It is, of course, fine (even desirable) to ask for suggestions and advice; we provide some in every issue of Voice magazine! The plethora of homeschool-related blogs, methods, curricula, products, and information offers wonderful variety but can also be overwhelming. It can be reassuring to learn other people’s experiences. But keep in mind that what may work for your friends, your favorite conference speaker, or that travel-tested homeschool blogger may not actually be effective for your child.

We may also believe that with experience, the answers become evident. Long-time homeschoolers may simply turn to tried-and-true curricula and methods as they plan their upcoming school year. But, just like that favorite toddler story, what worked for us 10 years ago, five years ago, or even just last year may no longer be relevant.

Because of this variability, we are required to periodically put on objective glasses with which to examine our home-schools. But complicating the matter is the fact that our vision is limited by the groups we’ve joined as well as by our individual experiences. What we believe (whether we’re aware of it or not) influences every choice we make. The community values which we surround ourselves naturally confirms our own biases. It’s important to not give in to the pressure (subtle or overt) from others in our groups and in our communities or overtly from others in our groups and in our communities with which we surround ourselves naturally confirms our own biases. It’s important to not give in to the pressure (subtle or overt) from others in our groups and in our communities

Even if 99% of all homeschoolers love something (curricula, method, product), your child may not. It doesn’t make your child (or you) a failure at homeschooling; it simply limits by the groups we’ve joined as well as by our individual experiences. What we believe (whether we’re aware of it or not) influences every choice we make. The community values which we surround ourselves naturally confirms our own biases. It’s important to not give in to the pressure (subtle or overt) from others in our groups and in our communities.

The shoe that fits one person pinches another; there is no recipe for living that suits all cases. —Carl Jung