

I would like to tell you about my 10 year old son and the common core. Kyler has struggled with reading and math since pre-k. In first grade, we had him tested for special ed but he did not qualify. He continued to struggle and fall behind. I am sure you are aware of the statistics about if a child is behind in the 3rd grade, they are usually always behind and struggle the rest of their education life.

Well my son is the exception. His teachers are using Common Core methods to teach him math. Here is an example. I am a math teacher so I can calculate things in my head pretty easily. He was working on adding fractions with unlike denominators. His teachers taught him to use rectangles to find the common denominator. My son who has struggled in school all his life was able to work this problem using the rectangle faster than I could do this in my head. He found the common denominator, added the fractions and then changed it into a mixed number in approximately 30 seconds. I was so stunned. This was huge for him and he feels so smart which he has not felt in many years.

Reading was also a huge detriment for Kyler. He has been in Tier 3 reading for years. He is now reading at almost the 50% for a 5th grader. His teachers are using the common core to teach Kyler and the strategies help struggling students. Do you realize that my son is going to go to middle school and not require any interventions. This is the same child who score 1's on his 3rd grade state assessment.

The common core works. Does it make teacher's think outside the box - yes but I am a teacher and I think that is ok. Does it push students to achieve more - yes but that is ok. My son was placed in Special Education in 4th grade,. He did qualify and now he is on grade level and will more than likely be removed in 7th grade when he is reevaluated. My son talks about college and where he wants to attend because he knows with the common core he is able to accomplish these dreams. The data proves that.

Thanks for listening and if you would like any more information, please feel free to contact me.

Lori Stockstill

Proud Parent of a Child who has grown through the Common Core