

Welcome to Empowering
Homeschool Conversations,
your authority in
navigating the world of
homeschooling diverse learners.

Featuring Peggy Ployer from
Sped Homeschool,
Annie Yorty from AnnieYorty.com,
Leilani Melendez from Living with Eve,
Stephanie Buckwalter from eLarp Learning,
and Dawn Jackson from Dawn
Jackson Educational
Consulting and Tutoring.

With over seventy five years
of combined homeschooling expertise,
experiences and perspectives,
this group is eager to
share their wealth of
wisdom to empower your
homeschooling journey.

So grab your favorite mug,
settle in and get ready for
insightful discussions,

valuable insights and practical tips.

Give your homeschool the
power boost it needs to
successfully educate the
unique learners in your home.

Hi, everyone,
and welcome to Empowering
Homeschool Conversations.

Today,
we are going to talk about beyond words,
how learning a second
language can transform
struggling learners.

And my guest today is Suzanne Gose.
She is a former public
school teacher who
transitioned to
homeschooling over twenty years ago.

when she decided to stay
home with her firstborn.
She quickly realized how
much she missed teaching,
reaching out to her local

community to offer small Spanish class.

Suzanne was met with an

overwhelming interest,

forty-two responses by the next morning.

Since then,

she has spent twenty-three years

public speaking,

and teaching Spanish to

homeschool students in the

classroom setting.

Suzanne is a happily married

mother of five, a small business owner,

and the founder and board

member of Community Homeschool Center.

She and her family enjoy

life on their fifteen-acre

farm in Central Texas.

Passionate about supporting

the homeschooling community,

Suzanne loves teaching Spanish weekly,

helping families in their

homeschooling journey, and maintaining

happy, well-organized home.

I wish I could say I had a
well-organized home.

Welcome, Suzanne.

I'm glad to have you on the show.

Yeah.

Well, I'm a very organized husband,
so having a Marine that's
organized makes things organized.

Yes, yes, yes.

I can say I'm organized in places.

Just don't look behind my cupboard doors.

Absolutely.

Because they are not organized.

Well, I'm glad to have you on the show.

Actually,

Suzanne and I were chatting
before the show started.

You were one of my first guests.

At that time,

it was called Sped Homeschool

Conversations,

which then we rebranded to

Empowering Homeschool Conversations.

But back in twenty eighteen,

you were on the show.

So I'm glad to have you back finally.

I'm so happy to be here.

A lot has changed,

but a lot stayed the same.

So we can help a lot of people this way.

Yep, definitely.

I have learned through experience.

I always told my son when I

started this show, I'm like,

you've got to be kidding.

You want me to actually interview people?

I have no idea how to do that.

You learn by experience.

Let me just put it that way.

If you think that I always

started out this way, no, I did not.

Yeah.

And yeah, it sounds like your jump into,

you know,

teaching Spanish and all of that

was kind of a shock as well.

It wasn't something you had planned.

Can you tell us a little bit
of that story and how that
came about and just how you
got launched into helping
homeschoolers with Spanish?

Sure.

So I was a public school teacher,
like you said.

And when we had our first born,
we wanted to I wanted to
stay home with them and I
didn't want to in daycare.

And so I was planning, OK,
I'll stay home with the
baby and then put them in
kindergarten like you do.

And I really was bored.

Like that baby was just like
not doing flashcards or anything.

And so.

so I just had heard about
these people called

homeschoolers and I thought
well maybe they need a
spanish tutor or something
so I got on their little
google well back then it
was yahoo groups and so yes
that's when I started
homeschooling too yes yeah
I sent that out and the
next morning I had forty
two responses which back
then was a lot of emails and um
Yes.

I had a little meeting at a
local church and said,
would anybody like a class?
And people started writing me checks.

My husband was there with a
little receipt book looking
at me like people will pay
you to teach like what?

Because in our head, you know,
you if you wanted to teach,

you taught in the public school.

And so it just never

occurred to us because we

have been in the system.

And so once I started

teaching homeschoolers, it was just like,

oh, these kids are really different.

And so I wanted our baby.

He's what at the time he was

nine months old.

And I thought,

I really want my baby to

turn out like these

teenagers because I didn't

know teenagers came that way.

Like, I thought they were like,

I didn't know exactly.

I thought they just came

kind of sullen and, you know,

sad and sort of introverted

and kind of grunted only to adults.

I didn't know they were

engaging young adults that

cared about you as a human.

And so it was amazing.

So that,

that day I turned into a

homeschooler and then four more babies.

They've all, well,

three have watched and we

have two left to graduate.

So.

That's awesome.

Yeah.

It's amazing how certain

things in your journey just flip,

you know, your path and, and,

But I have the same

experience with

homeschoolers now that I

teach at my studio.

They just catch on so much

faster and they are more engaging.

They actually push

themselves more than I see

the students in the typical classroom.

They've been taught how to, you know,
learn at the pace of
everybody else versus just, you know,
pursuing where they are.

It's their sweet spot.

They seem to just hone into that.

Right.

There's a lot of conditioning, I think.

No matter where you are,
if you're somewhere for eight hours a day,
you're going to be conditioned.

Whether it's a good
condition or a bad condition,
it's still a conditioning.

And so I think you need to remember,
as homeschoolers,

what are we conditioning
our children in which way?

In a good way.

You know, it's not like bad or good.

It's just something that you can't avoid.

And just think about what

that environment is for

your child and then for us, too.

So there's always a look at

what what are we getting used to?

And is that something good

to get used to or should we challenge?

Right.

Yeah, that's so true.

And we control that environment.

Yes.

So when I talked to you last,

we actually met in person recently,

and you were telling me

that you had some aha

moments with some students

that you had recently or

families that had recently

used your curriculum with

students who had struggled.

And I would love for you to

share one of those stories

with our community,

because I think it's encouraging.

Because a lot of times we

think learning a second
language is just I mean,
we just don't have enough
time because we have to
keep pushing those things
that our students struggle in.
But but I learned through
homeschooling my own kids
that that's not always the best approach.

So I'd love to hear your
stories about that.

Yeah.

So back when I started my
little small classes,
I would have people sign up
their their advanced child or their,
you know, that kind of type A,
their first born kind of natured kid.

Oh, we have extra time.

We have extra money.

So let's push this kid into
Spanish classes and kind of
give them extra maybe to

challenge them or something like that.

And then they would have

kids that were struggling

in whatever reason, whatever reason,

visual processing, dyslexia, audio,

memory issues, whatever it is.

And they would not sign

their kids up for Spanish

because of those reasons.

And it was really I was

really surprised by that

because I was like, no,

because even back then I

knew there's so much brain

health that learning a

second language can do.

And so if your child struggles with memory,

that's when you do put them

in a second language.

You know,

Spanish makes the most sense just

because it's the most

commonly spoken language

other than English in America.

But if your kid is

interested in any other language.

Just having them use that

part of their brain will

improve everything else.

So the biggest aha moment

for for me was just a

couple of years ago.

You know,

we've been doing this twenty years.

So a couple of years ago is

quite a short amount of time.

But he I had a mom that had

gotten I have the little flashcards here.

This is the flashcard her

little boy learned from.

I like it.

But in Spanish, me gusta.

And she emailed me and she said, hey,

I wanted to tell you my

child said his first word today.

And I was like, that's awesome.

She went on a paragraph.

My child said me gusta.

This is his first word.

I was like, fantastic.

Good job.

Keep going.

And she emailed me back.

She's like, I don't think you understand.

He's nonverbal.

He has autism.

He's nonverbal.

He has literally never

spoken a word to me.

It's just sounds and syllables.

But he pointed at an apple,

a real-life apple on the countertop,

and said, me gusta.

And she was like...

Yeah.

And so that was huge.

I didn't, that's like, to me,

that's like the best,

I think that's the best

story I'll ever get.

Maybe there'll be another one,

but I think using a

different part of the brain,

there's no pressure to

sound like mom or to say it

exactly right.

And whenever you're learning

with flashcards,

something that can't be measured, like,

you're always behind or or

ahead with math you're

always behind or ahead with

reading with learning a

language exactly you're not

on a sixth grade level or

an eightieth grade level

you're just learning a new

language and so I think a

lot of the pressure taking

off as well as the brain

health really makes a big

difference where we don't

think of it we don't
realize that background
work that happens when
you're learning a second
language it's it's so
important especially for
struggling learners not
I don't know,
I just want people to focus
on that's when you go
around and do the extra stuff.

Yes.

Yeah.

And that's really
interesting to point out
because I think we think
there's a single singular
way to deliver information
and that curriculum is the, you know, the,
the ultimate way of proper delivery.

And,

and yet those experiences that our
kids have and those moments where

where they can interact with
learning and kind of make
it fun and do something different or just,
you know,
not have it so under pressure
like you were talking about.

That's when we do get more
aha moments from them.

Yes.

Yeah, as soon as we relax,
everything opens up.

And it's with us too, right?

As soon as we relax, it's like, oh,
all I needed to do was relax.

But how do you tell somebody to relax?

You know,

as soon as you tell somebody to relax,
they're like, oh, what's about to happen?

So yeah,

the game-like feeling of learning words.

And it's like, I mean, it's just a game.

It's, oh, I achieved the next level.

I mean, we play video games,

we play board games, and we go, oh,

we got to the next level.

And so that endorphin, that excitement of,

oh, I learned a new word.

Even if you can't say it,

if you can hear it and point at it,

That's a synapse.

That's opening a part of the

brain that before that

moment simply was not open.

You cannot wake up the

foreign language part of the brain,

it's right up here,

any other way except by communicating.

Wow.

Yeah.

So it just stays dead and shriveled in.

I mean, it's okay.

You use other parts.

But imagine if you have a

part here that it's just

kind of in the way.

And so when your child gets

backed into a corner from
dyslexia or visual or any
kind of processing issue and you know, oh,
there's nowhere for them to go.

A foreign language is like
having a secret door.

They're back up and they go, oh, wait.

And the brain has this other
pathway that wasn't there
before and isn't there for
monolingual students.

Wow.

That is so cool.

Yeah.

And yet we're just so
tempted because that
anxiety and everything about getting them,
you know,
on track and caught up and all
these things.

And there we leave that out.

Yeah.

Right.

So we don't want to waste time.

Right.

Right.

Yeah.

But we want to we want to
make sure we are kind of wasting time.

It's so frustrating because
like I think of a lot of it like sports,
like if your child really
needs to work on those
those free throws or whatever it is.

And so what do you do?

You spend all this time on
free throws and you're
doing the free throws constantly,
constantly, constantly.

But if you took one day and
did some pushups or you
took one day and did some jumping jacks,

You did something else that
strengthens the ability to
do the free throw.

And that's what foreign language is like.

It's like adding in that stretching,
those calisthenics, the fundamentals,
and then everything else, reading,
writing, executive functioning, memory,
wit, everything else improves.

But all you did was spend
time on saying what you
like and don't like in Spanish.

It's so simple.

That is, yes.

But so counterintuitive.

And it's just not how we teach anymore.

And yeah, because it used to be about,
you know,

we didn't compartmentalize
learning so much as what we do now.

It's so compartmentalized.

And we think that if we
don't teach in this one area,

then of course,

it's going to be a
detriment to that child.

And I've heard...

I would just cringe when I
was on the phone with some
parents and they're like,
I removed everything else
from their curriculum
except this one subject.

And it just made me just, you know, go,
don't do that to the parent because,
you know,
you're suffocating your child
now by just teaching the
one thing that they struggle with.

And and then they're, you know,
just their whole composure about,
you know,

I am a bad learner and it just
it all compiles on top of itself.

So so, yes,

I love that we're having this
conversation right before Christmas,
because I think parents,
if you're listening to this and go,
you know what,

I think we've been doing
what they're telling us not to do,
change things up, you know,
take some time over the
Christmas break and and
have some fun and.

And then try to figure out
how you can incorporate
this fun and some
additional ways of learning
starting in January.

And it's okay.

It's, you know, it's where you started.

So I would love for you to
just share any practical tips.

like tips or ways that
parents could incorporate a
second language into their
homeschool routines that
they feel like maybe,

I don't know where we even
have time for something like that.

Right.

So I would just help
everybody to take a step
back and recognize that one
word is one word.

So let's do it now, right?

So to make it super practical,
you can see here's Ilpan.

El pan.

El pan.

And so you're going to hear it and say it.

So anytime you see anything in your house,
focus on nouns first.

Don't focus on manners or
greetings or answering
where are you from.

I have literally never asked
any of my children where are they from.

But that's something that, you know,
all the... Yet.

Maybe I'll do it next week.

But...

That's something that so
many Spanish curriculums

start with is greetings and

how to make friends.

Yes.

I always thought that was so

confusing when I took

Spanish in high school.

Right,

because you're not going to use that.

And so you want to think about, okay,

what is my child's favorite food?

Food is always a connector, right?

So if you have kids that really like pan,

the next time you say it,

just say el pan.

We do have the Spanish and

the English on the other side,

and as well as the phonetic spelling,

but we really want to focus

on just hearing the word and saying,

and that's what see it and

say it does is you listen to it.

So start with nouns and

start with one word.

The next time you go to see
that word or to see that item,
you're like getting the bread out,
you're ready to make a sandwich,
your brain's going to go,

What was that?

And so that little pause is
going to help awaken some synapses.

And then not only are your
synapses going to fire in a
different direction,
so now you kind of have
shortcuts that weren't there before,
but it also increases the
capacity for memory.

So it's kind of like making
a room bigger as well as the path to it.

So if you think, well,

I didn't use Spanish.

I went to high school.

I learned Spanish, but I've never used it.

I've been fine without it.

I'm not talking about that.

I'm talking about now.

Do you want brain health now?

Do you want better recall now?

Do you want your memory to be better now?

Do you want better executive functioning?

So as an adult,

I would like to really

challenge you that it's not

just for your children.

This brain health is for all ages.

And of course,

it will help you like the normal way.

Right.

Oh, now I can speak to more people.

I can help people that are in need,

things like that.

But the brain health,

it can give you ten more

years without dementia.

Like if you're going to get dementia,

we don't we know.

And that's a huge concern

for adults now that they're going,

how do I avoid this?

And so that's great.

A great tip.

Absolutely.

You can get a decade more.

Yes.

So that would be my main tip

is focus on nouns first.

And the reason is because

your brain is already

hardwired as a baby.

Your mama taught you nouns

before she taught you verbs

or greetings or anything else.

She would say book, bunny, kitty, birdie,

you know,

and then you would respond by...

Yeah, smiling about it.

I like it.

Do you like it?

Do you want it?

That's how this is.

Do you like that little kid

that learned how to say me gusta?

Me gusta el pan.

Now you can change this word

out for all kinds of things.

If you want to say I don't like it,

you say no me gusta,

but we don't teach that for a while.

especially if you have

toddlers yes yes we don't

teach no for a long time

but just starting with

really simple things um and

like we just did one word

it takes five seconds you

can put it like I have what

I have it in front of me is

I have it on a little stand

and so if you have like one

of those menu holders it's

just like a little

You know,

you can get these so many places.

I've got one for a knife on my counter.

So there you go.

Great.

So stick your flashcard in there.

My kids actually send me messages.

They'll put like different

different phrases up here

and they'll change it out.

They want to say something.

They put it on on the stand.

So keep it around you and

start with one word.

Once you get that one word,

then add another.

It does not like don't go, oh,

I'm going to be fluent in five days.

No, you're not.

You know, right.

Start with one word.

Yeah, that's great.

And it's a super easy way to

incorporate it into what

you're already doing.

So you don't feel like

you're taxed and adding other things.

So it's, yeah, that, that, yeah,

I think we think we have to

be all in or not, not at all,

instead of incorporating

small little changes that

will then add up as you,

you use them more and more again.

Um, yeah.

So, yeah.

Um,

What about specific learning styles?

And I know a lot of times we

talk about multisensory

approaches to learning.

And so for a child who

really needs to be tactile or kinesthetic,

what are some ways that we

can incorporate a language?

Because oftentimes we think

of it as auditory.

Right.

so I would make sure if you

have a tactile learner keep
them off of screens the
screen is a real detriment
not only to the brain in
general but um it actually
closes down the language
development of part of your
brain so back when you and
I had toddlers remember
they would tell us thirty
minutes of tv a day right
max exactly for toddlers
and that was because it
would delay their speech
and that was whatever
twenty years ago right and
now you can't tell that to
parents because
Nobody knows how to function
if their toddler doesn't
have the iPad in front of them.
But it's still true that
kids haven't changed.

So the developmental part of
your brain for languages
completely goes dark, even right now.

Can we learn while we're
sitting in front of a screen?

Yeah, Peggy and I can learn.

We could teach you the other stuff.

But our brain is now doing
an obstacle course trying to figure out,
how do I absorb that information?

As adults,
if you've ever tried to watch a meeting,

And you're like, gosh,
you're getting really sleepy.

That's because the part of
the brain that is language
development is dark.

It is not fired up.

So we learn much better from
something on a piece of paper,
from face to face.

Peggy and I would be doing
much better if we were sitting here,

but then we wouldn't be
able to help everybody.

So anything...

Yeah, you have to overcome.

That's why we provide a
transcript of this.

So if you've ever felt like

I need a transcript of the broadcast,
the week after when the podcast comes out,
if you go to

spethomeschool.com and Homeschool Heroes,

we actually have the
transcript with the video
and the podcast.

So you can get all that
information in one place.

So, yeah,

that's because we had lots of
requests for that.

People are like,

I just need to be able to follow along.

Yes, that's awesome.

And also another way to

overcome that is like I'm
not saying screens are the devil.
I'm just saying you want to
add something to it.
So if you just have a notepad next to you.
So as you're listening or if
you're hearing a word in
Spanish and you doodle it,
you draw you draw the
picture of the apple,
you draw a picture of the loaf of bread.
that will wake up that part
of your brain that has been
kind of diminished a little bit.
So supplement, like if you say, oh,
I just bought this video
program and that's all it is, that's okay,
supplement it with something else.
Your tactile learner,
have them draw their own flashcards.
So they're gonna draw a
picture on one side,
don't have them write it.

You can write it,

but write it on the back.

So we don't typically think in words,

we typically think in pictures.

And so we want to try and

help our brain to grab the new language,

me gusta, me gusta.

And so the next time you see

a little kid in an orange shirt,

you're going to be like, oh,

he looks like the me gusta boy.

And so it's like creating a little kid

you know, a kind of a path for you.

And then that way you can, you know,

attach it to other things.

So your tactile learners,

flashcards are awesome.

Charades are great.

Drawing, doodling,

all those types of things are great.

For your visual learners, the photo works,

of course.

Yes.

Sometimes our visual
learners really like to read it.

That's okay.

But we just want them to
always focus on this side.

Just use this for reference.

And then your audio learners,
they are easy because they just hear it,
repeat it, hear it, repeat it,
and they got it quickly.

yeah yeah have you ever
incorporated any activities
like like body like

movement and things like
that to help with learning

as well absolutely so we're

always acting things out um

whenever I I have a child

that has deaf parents so

she's hearing but her both

of her parents are deaf and

so she would sign it in you

know asl while we're

learning things so you can

always add your own hand

signals it does not have to

be accurate asl

So if we want to say el pan, I just use,

you know, el pan, the bread, el pan,

or comer, you know, to eat.

So anything you're doing, me gusta,

you can always add actions

to it as simple or as

complex as you want.

And that will help the brain

to grab it that much more.

Awesome.

Yes,

I know when we memorize scripture verses,

I would always do that with

my kids because that's how

I'm a kid aesthetic learner.

I have to be in moving.

And and so I'm like, OK,

if I'm going to try to memorize this,

that means I'm up and moving.

They're going to be up and moving, too.

Yes.

And I'm a visual learner.

So I was just to do the first letter.

I'll write the first letter

on something and then my

brain can grab the first

letter and that will help

it to be meaningful.

So we do, we tend to do what works for us,

but just recognize that

your kid is not a carbon copy of you.

So try the other ways as well.

Exactly.

We always think, well,

that one child that we have

that's like us, they learn the best.

Well, yes, we're teaching to them,

not the rest of them.

That's a good point.

That's true.

Learn the best.

Yes.

We have those difficult ones
that are like our husbands.

Yes.

That's a good point as well.

Yeah.

Yes.

And a lot of times the kinesthetic learner,

if you, I mean, you already know this,

but for the learners,

the others out there,

just giving them some like

permission to move, right?

So I have my computer chair

and just having permission

to move and wiggle will help that.

Also just clapping out the words,

me gusta el pan.

Just really simple.

I mean, you could do a fist,

you can do snaps,

anything that's like

allowing them to touch.

You can pretend to type it

out on a pretend keyboard.

So they're at the table and

they're typing pretend letters.

And that little tappity

motion does something

different than just hearing repeating.

And also the biggest thing on us,

and I know we're probably

out of time just about,

but the biggest thing is... Oh, no,

we've got a whole hour.

So you keep going.

Hooray!

I thought we only had thirty minutes.

Well,

that's wonderful because I have a lot

more to share.

But the biggest thing is

making it meaningful.

If you think about toddlers

and when they were learning a language,

they have an opinion.

And so I like or I need is

how we start with see it and say it.

Me gusta or necesito.

And the kid gets to decide,

do I like it or do I need it?

And so that opinion, that decision,

that choice makes the

second half of the sentence

super important.

And so then that's why they

remember it is because now

it's meaningful.

It's not just, you know, items in a pantry,

colors on the wall.

What's it like?

I mean,

these kids are sick to death of colors,

numbers and clothing.

Exactly.

Yeah.

Yeah.

We get,

we get stuck in that perpetual

kindergarten mode of just data entry,

I think is what I would

call it into our kids.

And we, we want the output.

I mean,

that really shows us what they know

versus what we can feed

into them with it before they give up.

So, so I love that, that we,

we do want that.

them to synthesize it and

give it to us from their perspective,

because that really

understands how much

knowledge they have instead

of just how much they can

keep in their bank until we

walk away and then they forget it all.

Right.

Yeah.

And if they don't use it, I mean,

we know you don't use it, you lose it.

Right.

And so using it not only

helps with the memory,
but it also makes more
space for other items and
not just foreign language.

Right.

So once you start seeing
that vocabulary go up and
that usefulness and they're
excited about it,
nobody's expecting them to know it.

And so that surprise in
somebody else's face goes, ooh,
learning these interesting tidbits,
this little bit of memory
work that I'm doing now impressed others.

People's face went up.

And so that kind of
snowballs into learning the science,
the history, the reading, the math facts.

That gives them that good
endorphin instead of like
the poor kid that the mom
took everything else away.

Now the only thing he can do is fail.

That's the only thing he can do.

Exactly.

Yes.

Yeah.

Lots of ways to succeed.

Yes.

Those successes just help

with their their own self self-worth and,

you know,

just how they perceive

themselves from others point of view,

like you talked about.

And that's huge.

If they believe in themselves,

they they can take leaps forward.

and chances in other things

that they may not have,

they may just have shut down.

And I think that happens a lot.

If a child is, you know,

shut down in learning and

maybe is very resistant

about learning a second language,
I'm assuming that, you know,
some of these more
interactive ways that you
were talking about would be
great ways to even just start out
relearning, you know,
learning instead of going
that traditional approach
of let's pull the books out.
Maybe let's just put all the
books away and start with a
foreign language,
which may seem really counterintuitive,
but, you know,
hearing everything that
you've been talking about
with just opening up other
parts of the brain and
helping their
self-confidence and doing
all these other things that in the end,
I could see this as

actually launching them

into better learning.

Yeah.

than if you would have just kept, well,

it's time to start doing

again what we did before

and really starting out

with them mentally in the same place,

which is not good.

Right.

I think we just repeat what we did.

Right.

So when we did Spanish or

French or whatever foreign

language we had and even elementary,

like some of the schools do

it earlier now, which is great.

But they start with colors,

numbers and clothing and or

school supplies, you know,

and it's just not super

interesting for children.

So if you have a kid that's kind of.

frustrated with the lists
learning or that's just
what they think Spanish is.
Maybe they have a wrong
attitude towards it because
they've done it before or
they've heard you talk about it even.

As parents,
we kind of give negative
feedback for things we
didn't enjoy in school.

Playing bingo is a great way
because that way it's all just luck.

So I actually have a jillion
bingo games on the website.

So we'll pretend like this
is a bingo card.

On the bingo card, it has the word...

as well as the picture so
it's actual it's actually a
cartoon instead of a flash
card and so no it's no
longer um it's no longer

like knowledge base it's
luck so it totally takes
the pressure off the kid so
if I say okay the first
word is me gusta they're
looking on their card
they're trying to find the
words that's me gusta and
they're like wait does that
mean I like it you're like yes
All they have to do is find it.
They've got the hand eye coordination.
They pick it up and they
flip it upside down.
And so they've seen they've
heard the word.
They've recognized it.
They flipped it upside down.
So you have the visual,
the tactile and the audio all happening.
And it had nothing to do
with their skill level,
their ability or their memory.

And so it's huge to just
kind of take that
performance anxiety away from them.

So that's a great way.

And then like what else are
you talking about shutting down?

Like here's I like to cook the bread.

Me gusta cocinar el pan.

And so a kid might be like, oh, no,
me gusta comer.

I like to eat the bread.

So the series model also
helps like the kids.

That's like they want they
have a reaction.

Right.

So I put together a sentence
that can be moved.

It's not on a piece of paper.

Right,

so they aren't forced to do any
handwriting.

They aren't forced to, yeah,

they can just pick and move things.

Yeah, they don't have to read it.

Yeah, so they're just identifying it.

And like my little three-year-old,

she accidentally learned to

read from these things

because I constantly told her.

Really?

Yeah, I was like,

please focus on the photo.

I was like,

just listen and learn because I

already had four kids.

I was just like,

we're just doing Spanish at three.

Don't worry about it.

Just listen and learn.

Photosite only.

And she has integrity issues

at that point.

She kept flipping it over to read it.

And so, you know,

I didn't know whether I

should cheer or be upset,

like follow instructions.

But you see that because

it's not a requirement,

I'm not expecting you to read it.

Kids at three and four years

old are learning to read

accidentally because of the simple,

chunky kind of little bit of information,

just one flashcard at a time.

Right.

And it helps a little bit

with the grammar because

you chunked the words

together that usually go

together and can be put together.

So they don't have to think about that.

It's just what makes sense

and how would I respond to it?

And if it doesn't sound like

it's something I can respond to,

then it probably needs to change.

So it's just that common

sense way of interacting without having,
you know, forcing...
them to, to have too much on their plate.

Right.

That's awesome.

Yeah.

Well, and so I saw some additive part,
you know, oh, sorry.

Oh, no, go.

Yeah.

Talk about that.

You know, when we add the adjectives,
they do go at the end, right?

They go after the noun.

And so I do explain all that
in the curriculum.

And so they learn that.

But if they mess it up and
they accidentally put the adjective here,
there's no frustration
because they're not having
to scratch it out.

They're not having to erase it.

They're just moving the card.

And so all those perfectionists,
because a lot of struggling learners,
that's why they struggle.

They want it to be perfect
before they ever put their
pencil to the page.

And so this removes that.

It's just moving the cards around.

There's nothing that's
permanent about learning cards.

Yeah,

that was a big struggle with my kids.

And that's why they can't do

a lot of online learning

because a lot of those programs,

if you are off like by not

adding a zero after a

decimal place or something

like that or doing,

my daughter would just

break down because it was

so hard for her to deal

with that she knew the right answer,

but she put it in wrong.

And then everything, I mean,

it wasn't perfect.

It wasn't the way she had

mentally perceived that it was going in.

So.

So, yes,

something that is very flexible

like that and very

forgiving is makes it so

much easier to to be able to accept that.

Oh, well, you know,

that was just a wrong place card.

Then we just move it and life is good.

Yeah.

Yes.

Mm hmm.

I love that.

Yeah.

And and I think that's a

very good way because we

kind of started this part

of this conversation
talking about shutdown learners.
And I think that a lot of
kids who are shutdown learners,
they are those
perfectionists or they fail
so many times that they're
afraid to fail again
because it just kind of it
eats away at them as is.
And at a certain point,
you just don't want to do
something that you keep failing at.
Or you feel like you keep failing at.
And so to have those
successes and to have that
flexibility makes it so much more fun.
Yeah.
Yeah.
So let's talk a little bit
about fun and adding fun to
learning and just how how
you do that with your own curriculum.

and how you've seen students
respond to making things a
little more fun versus, you know, well,
this is serious and we've
got to learn all this stuff.

So I think the main thing is
because there is a manual
that goes along with it.

So you have the

The manual that teaches you, you know,
which lessons to do and
everything like that has it
all listed for us,
kind of the type A type
people that really want to
know exactly what's coming.

You have it written out here
and the transcript is actually, you know,
read to you.

So everything that's in the
book is on the audio.

So you could just not read
the reference book at all

and just listen along.

that already goes, oh,

there's no textbook for the kids.

No, there's no textbook for the kids.

The kids have the flashcards,

they're listening and they're touching.

So laying a card out on the

table and just hearing it

and touching it and

repeating it is the first start.

For the perfectionist kids,

what I give them is

something to touch it with.

So they can use a ruler,

they can use a fly swatter,

they can use a pencil,

those sticky hands.

If they're like, oh yeah,

Anything that's not your finger,

that's okay too.

That's a fun way.

Then of course we can act it out.

There's speed rounds.

Then I think the biggest
thing for our perfectionist
learners is being worried
about how they sound.

A lot of times they don't want to speak.

Yes.

Right.

They're not sure they're
going to say it exactly right.

What you do with them is,
let's see if I have one.

I don't have one.

I have googly eyes on the website.

You put them on your fingers
and you can actually say,
say whatever it is with your,
with your hand, you know,
so you got the little
googly eyes or like a
puppet or something like that.

Like a puppet.

Right.

So even if you, and if you don't have that,

you're like, well, I don't have that.

Use an old sock, right?

Put a sock on your hand and just do that.

You can use any kind of little, anything,

you know, maybe.

And so they just having a voice is,

Like change your voice, go higher, deeper,

growl,

whatever you want to do that it's

no longer you.

And you can even hide.

Like I would even have

students that would go down

below the desk and hold it up high.

Me gusta.

And so taking that pressure

off the face helps them to now speak.

So, yeah.

And it's really helps if

you'll do the voice,

if you'll be funny first,

this kid will relax.

Yeah, I found that even with like,

when my kids wouldn't talk
about their feelings,

we always had puppets.

I had one especially that was, you know,
really struggling through some stuff.

And we got this one puppet
and he would just open up

when the puppet was in his hand.

And I'm like, what's going on here?

But it does, it takes the pressure off.

It feels like that I am not

being focused on and all

the attention isn't at me,

but I can share and I feel

a little safer.

And so parents,

if you're really struggling

with a child that has that

perfectionism or they're

just dealing with some deep things,

that is some great advice

that Suzanne just shared.

shared with you about that.

Yes, I love that.

Yeah,

because you can just look over at the

hand,

even if you just let your hand talk.

So now the child was looking at the hand,

you might be looking at the child's face,

and that's fine because the

child's no longer required

to make eye contact.

I mean,

how many times do we look at these

little boys and say, look me in the eye?

and that's the one thing

they can't do and tell you

the truth and admit that

they messed up and so we

want them to fess up tell

us what they did wrong and

also look us in the eye my

goodness I mean they're

eight so exactly something

else and same with learning

learning anything once you
take the spotlight off of
their face they're able to
perform and show you what they know

Yes, that is so true.

And just a gentle way of parenting,
of homeschooling that I
think we've forgotten about.

We put so much stress on our kids,
stress that we put on our
own selves that we probably
shouldn't either.

I know we shouldn't.

And it just snowballs.

And it snowballs actually
our goals that we have for
that child because we are...
we allow that to come into
just how we teach instead
of just relaxing and
enjoying it and meeting
them where they're at,
which is so important.

Yeah,

I think a lot of it is just we can't
help but repeat what we experienced.

It's just it's the norm.

It's familiar.

And so when I think about
homeschooling in general,
if we can just avoid the
trauma that we had at whatever subject,
whatever teacher, whatever one event,
if we can just avoid that, then that's.

that's stellar already.

Even if they're not cold.

Like I was always cold in school.

I was freezing all the time.

And so I love that my
children are not cold while they learn.

I love that.

And you have the opportunity
to give them blankets and
lots of other things you
probably didn't have in a
cold classroom environment.

Yeah.

I mean,

you would be crazy if you wore a

jacket in Texas in an elementary school.

You were crazy.

You didn't wear a jacket,

but it was so cold.

Yeah.

These small things, you know,

that really affects our learning.

If we can simply avoid that part,

we're doing a great job.

We're giving them better than what we had,

which is that's all we can do.

Right.

Right.

And I think that that brings

up something I hadn't even

thought of as part of this conversation.

But I'd love to chat about

just a second is that we as

parents don't often think about.

those things that determine

how we teach because of

those past experiences.

We don't even evaluate it.

We don't even know why we do what we do.

That would be a great thing

as just a home educator

parent to maybe take a step

back this holiday season and say,

why are we doing what we're doing?

I'm sure you've done that

multiple times in your

homeschooling years, Suzanne.

You know,

what is what changed over the

years for you as you've

homeschooled twenty years plus?

I think the biggest was

listening to my mentor.

So I think if you're a

younger mom or you have elementary kids,

find somebody that's ten to

fifteen years older than

you that you like.

And just ask her what advice

she would have for you.

Hang out with her.

Watch her.

There's so much freedom from

somebody that's a decade

beyond where you are.

And so that was my biggest thing.

My mentor, Julie, she had six kids.

Her...

My youngest children were

older than my oldest child.

Right.

And so she helped me to see.

In fact,

she's the one that that pointed

out the visual processing

disorder of our second son,

because she's like, Suzanne,

he's really smart and he knows phonics.

Something else is going on.

And I did not want that to be true.

I was like, no, no, he's fine.

But we had him tested and sure enough,
it was, it was huge.
And then just six months to
a year of therapy and it
worked out like all this therapy stuff.
So I think the biggest
things that changed is why, like you said,
why, why do we have to start at eight AM?
And I was like, yes, I knew I could not.
I was like, I don't know.
but you wouldn't have even
thought about that had
somebody not pointing it
out to you right absolutely
and why why this is why
there's all yes constantly
ask why why am I teaching
math this way you know
where why are we teaching
it where we are like the
kids were like could we
could we do outside I was
like no and they're of

course like why mama I was

like I don't know

Don't get mad at them when

they ask that question.

Be thankful.

Yes.

Yeah.

Do I have a reason?

And so now, I mean, even now,

today I did literature with

my junior and my senior in high school.

We're reading Chuck Colson's

autobiography and we're out by the fire.

And that's where we still do

literature to this day.

And I think Audie, who's just eighteen now,

I think he was four when he

asked that question.

Why can't we read outside?

And what a blessing.

What a wonderful thing to

embrace the freedom of we

are no longer on a conveyor belt.

The conveyor belt is not terrible.

It's just they have to have

a conveyor belt because

they have so many cogs in the wheels.

They have to do it that way.

I had to do it that way when

I taught public school.

I'm not on the conveyor belt.

Embrace your freedom.

There's a lot of freedom.

Yes, so true.

Well, Suzanne,

I'd love for you to share a

little bit about your program.

Suzanne has so many resources,

so I want her to share with

us some information.

And she used a lot of

visuals in today's broadcast.

So if you're listening to the podcast,

definitely you want to

check out the YouTube video,

at least parts of it.

You can either...

pick that up on YouTube, Facebook, um,

on our pages,

there'll be some reels coming out, um,

after the podcast as well.

So, um,

so those are things to look into as well,

um, for, um,

seeing what she was sharing

as far as the cards,

if you're interested in those, but, um,

talk a little about,

you've been about your, your website,

flipflopspanish.com and

what people can find on there.

So, yeah, so I always forget about that.

I am super visual, like I said,

so I'm always showing

people everything and

instead of just saying it.

But that's why it's called

see it and say it,

because that's how you

learned your first language.

You saw an item, your mom said it to you.

So your brain is already hardwired.

If you're doing it any other way,

you're kind of trying to

make your brain do

something that it's not used to doing.

So it's a good idea to try and say, okay,

what can I look at?

Not the word, not the written word,

but what can I look at that

I can identify?

And then, so this is cocinar, to cook,

cocinar.

And so I'm holding up another photo, y'all,

another flashcard.

Also recognizing that it's a

photo and not a drawn

cartoon of some sort.

So when your mama was

talking to you in the crib,

she held up the actual

bottle of milk or the apple or the bread.

She didn't hold up a cartoon.

Especially for struggling learners,

if they have a visual issue

or context or any kind of

little difference the way they are,

if you show them a cartoon,

they're going to give you

an opinion on the artist that drew that.

They're going to be like,

why is it that color?

Blah, blah, blah.

But if you give a photo,

it removes all those

questions and those attitudes.

It's just, oh, that's what it is.

So learning a language is a

lot about removing obstacles.

And once you do that in the

language portion,

you're going to see ways to

do that in all the other subjects.

So see it and say it.

You lay out the flashcards.

You push play on the audio.

And it talks you through the

whole two years of

curriculum from ages three

all the way to ninety three.

Anybody can learn.

The lessons are like fifteen minutes.

And then when you're ready

for high school Spanish, you're like,

well, I want the credentials.

I really need that high school credit.

We have [SpanishGDCs.com](https://spanishgdc.com)

where I do it more at a scholar level.

You're still the same method,

but you're reading the stories,

you're listening and you're

conversing at a higher level.

That's awesome.

So yes,

and I will include the hyperlink in

the show notes so you don't

have to try to spell

anything or figure out what I said.

But if you are listening and
want to write it down right now,
it is flipflopspanish.com.

And so and I even say, you know,
like your cards,
they're very inexpensive.

If parents just want to
start out with like what we
were talking about earlier
and just get a set of cards
and use them to help their students,
you know, learn some alternative words.

I think when we talked years ago,
I remember you talking
about how when a child like.
had to do something that was like typical,
that it was much more
exciting if you used like different words,
like a Spanish word in there.

And I always that always
stuck with me that, oh, yeah,
we can make things more
exciting instead of like,

this is something we do every day.

Like, put your shoes away.

Right.

So let's just call, you know,

the shoes are Spanish version and,

you know, just change it up a little bit.

And and that it makes a huge difference.

It just adding that variety

into into their lives.

And it just makes things more exciting.

It's like when you you hear

somebody speaking in a foreign, you know,

just accent or it just it sounds so cool.

Yeah.

Yeah.

yeah variety is is huge and

and it does like you said

it just adds a little spice

to your life um if you

really wanted to do just

one word a day we do have a

calendar even it's a you

can hang it on the wall and

it's a calendar one word a
day you get to doodle and
and label the thing in the
picture at the top and it
comes with audio I would
never do that to you you
always have audio so you
can hear the word
you know identify it and
you're like hey we learned
one word today and you
don't have to find it it
just stays on the wall so
if you're looking for
something like that say
Suzanne I'm not ready for a
full two-year curriculum
but I hear what you're
saying I think I could do
one word a day then we have
two different levels of the
Spanish fun activity
calendar I just don't want

you to be scared try it and
embrace it if you need more
help email message Facebook
me I love this stuff you're
never going to annoy me I
want to help yeah

And yes,
and that's something we always encourage.

I think I have, you know,
various curriculum people on.

I think I've been talking
more and more in the past
couple of years since I've
been dealing more with
curriculum creators.

I just encourage our parents,
call these people,
email them because they
truly want to help you.

If you're struggling with
teaching something that they wrote,
let them know.

They probably have a solution for you,

but you're not going to
figure out what it is until you ask them.

So so reach out because, yeah,
that's instead of just saying, well,
this isn't working.

I think we do that too often
and too early.

And instead of really figuring out, I mean,
if you fell in love with the curriculum,
there's a reason you did.

And and so ask.

I mean, the worst thing they can say is,
I don't know.

But maybe you've also
encouraged them to add
something to their
curriculum that they hadn't
really realized was necessary as well.

Or like the family you
shared the story about, Suzanne, you know,
what if that mom just never told you?

I mean,
it would not have impacted your

outreach and how you felt
your curriculum could be used even.

And so those interactions
are so important and we've
got to keep them going.

Yeah.

yes I totally agree yeah we
want to help otherwise we
wouldn't have done it like
we're not we're not in it
for the money y'all we want
to help if if something I
mean seriously if something
like this already had
existed I would have just
taught my little spanish
classes followed the lesson
plan and done it but the
reason it exists is because
everything that was out
there didn't really work
for homeschoolers it worked
in a public school when you

see the kids forty five
minutes a day every single
day and even then y'all
that curriculum was not good
I mean, we just were, you know,
we had to follow it because
that's what the school district had.

But now I actually have
schools using see it and
say it because why?
Because it works better
because it's the way you
learned your first language.

So, yeah, we want to help.

Absolutely.

Very cool.

Well, thank you, Suzanne,
just for the work that you
do and the dedication that
you've had in the
homeschool community for so many years.

I know it's hard to continue
to keep just doing it as a, you know,

it really is a ministry.

A lot of us in the homeschooling, you know,

like you said,

it's not like you're

getting money from the public schools.

Right.

And most homeschooling

families are one income.

And, you know,

we as providers and to the

homeschooling community, we can, you know,

the same as as our nonprofit.

And you know,

we we consider that and we we

understand we've been there, you know,

homeschooling our own kids.

We know what it's like.

And so we're not.

It truly is a ministry.

Yes.

Yes, absolutely.

So, so yeah,

so I appreciate your dedication and,

and just all that you do.

And I know you do a lot in

your local community too,

and not just with your, your curriculum,

your Spanish curriculum.

So, so I appreciate that.

And,

and all that you do to pour into

families and kids,

I'm sure it's affected your

community a lot.

Thank you.

I mean, we've learned so much from that.

Being in one community for a

long time really helps in a lot of ways.

It's such a blessing.

And it's something that you

can't always choose.

So I'm really grateful that

we have been in the same

place since my first kid

was born all the way till now.

We've been in the same community.

And what a blessing that
they've poured into me as I
was growing with those five kids.

And now I get to be I mean,
I have grand students.

You know, it's amazing.

I have students that have gotten married.

Yeah.

And I have their tiny little
children in my classes now.

It's phenomenal.

So, yeah,

I recommend finding at least one
mom that is older than you
and just asking and just
being teachable and
recognizing that you don't
know everything.

And, you know, a lot of us think, well,
if it was a good idea,

I would have already had it.

And that's not the case.

be open to people offering

solutions to problems that
you don't even see.

There's some problems that
you don't see as a mom.

Cause we kind of got a little blind spot.

So yes.

And other people see what
your children can do and
maybe some of the,
the needs they have that
they need help with.

So we're in this together and yeah.

Asking questions is always a
great way to learn, isn't it?

It is.

Yes.

Yes, absolutely.

We definitely,

I learn something new on
this show every week and
I'm done homeschooling,
but it doesn't mean that I
can't stop learning.

And I love being here to
help and ask questions that
help you all homeschool better.

So that's why we're here.

But, um,

I'd like to do a little plug for our, um,

so on Thursday of this week,

if you're listening live,

if you're on the podcast,

this is already over.

Sorry.

Um, I talked about a little bit last week,

but we have a holiday cheer

and learn party.

Um, that's coming up Thursday.

It is free.

We'd love for you to register.

If you go to the,

our website at

spethomeschool.com and you look up at,

um,

upcoming.

You'll see either from our calendar,

our workshops page,

but we have a incredible

lineup of people.

We're going to,

Sarah Collins from

Homeschool OT is going to

do some baking with us,

holiday baking and teach motor skills,

fine motor,

gross motor skills through baking.

And then we're going to do a

multi-sensory Christmas

reading lesson with Don Jackson.

Steve Demme's coming on for

a Christmas devotional.

I'm going to be leading a fitness break

And then Right Start Math is

coming on with a holiday math game.

And Simply Charlotte Mason

is going to do a picture study with us.

And then we have an

interactive Christmas

history lesson with John

Knotgrass from Knotgrass History.

Carol Brown from Equipping

Minds is going to be on for

some brain training games.

And then we have a craft with Annie Yorty.

And then Rainbow Resources

popping on to do some Mad Lives,

Christmas Mad Lives for that.

And then Leilani Melendez,

one of my other co-hosts,

will be on to do a holiday

activity as well.

We've got some giveaways and discounts.

So it is going to be one fun

packed morning.

I love all those people.

I am for sure going to be there.

I love all those people.

It's amazing.

It is going to be lots and lots of fun.

So I'm super excited about that.

We do this once a quarter.

We did it as a kickoff event

and we had lots of people

interacting on that.

So our next one will be in the spring.

So if you missed this one,

just be watching for our

spring activity and then

we'll have one later on in the summer.

That's kind of a summer kickoff.

So

But that's our goal is to get those.

And plus what another great

announcement that we have

coming up as of January first,

we are going to be starting

to offer one on one consultations.

So we have a whole team of

consultants that we will be

working with us.

And so if you have any needs,

you can come in if you're.

associated with the state

organization that's going

to partner with us,

you'll be able to get a

discount on those as well.

So those are some things we

have coming up in January

that we're super excited

about since HSLDA,

the Homeschool Legal Defense Association,

dropped that perk from their memberships.

So we had a lot of very

large donors come up and say,

we want this program to happen.

So I was able to bring on a

full-time person

to um to start that program

and so um so that has been

because of their generous

gifts it is nothing that

I've done um so so I we're

just very excited that

we're gonna be able to do

that for you and also we

have a new cognitive test

that we're gonna be able to

offer to um for

at a very reasonable rate.

And it's what this test does.

It doesn't test where your child struggles,

but it's going to tell you

where your child excels.

And so if you're like,

how do I teach my child?

How do I teach to their to

where they're gifted?

Because every child is gifted.

They have certain things

that they're very good at.

And so this test actually

pins point those and it

gives you ideas on how to

teach to that child.

And then if you want to

follow up consultation with

one of our consultants,

kind of dig through that,

that will be available for you as well.

So those are some huge

things we have coming up

and we are just over the

moon excited that we can

help you this way.

So, so yeah, lots, lots going on,

but it's things that I have

dreamed about for years and

just can't wait.

Yeah.

Yeah.

What a blessing.

That's a wonderful, wonderful resource.

I know so many moms that need that,

but they don't know where to reach.

So I will definitely be

sharing that with all of my people.

And I saw you,

you sent out the email about

everything happening on Thursday.

Will that email send out

again before Thursday, like a newsletter?

We'll send out another one

with the updates.

Yes.

Cause I'm going to send it
to all my people say, Hey,
you need to sign up for this newsletter.

So you can see,
cause I saw that list of stuff and I went,
Oh my goodness.

Right.

And then every month we send
out an update from all of
our partners with special deals, too.
So if they're on our email list,
all of our partners put in, you know,
like this is the discount we're offering.

So so like Simply Charlotte
Mason and Rainbow Resource
and Not Grass History and
all of them will give us
whatever they're they have
discounts on for the month.

So you don't have to search for them.

You don't go to their websites.

You're like, oh, yeah.

Right on this email.

I got, got it all.

So many resources.

What a wonderful service you have.

That's awesome.

Yeah.

Thank you.

Yeah.

Well,

thank you all for joining us and

thank you, Suzanne.

Make sure you visit

Suzanne's website at flipflopspanish.com.

And we appreciate you just

tuning in with us today on the show.

Next week is our last

broadcast for this year.

So that is,

that broadcast live will

come out next week.

But, but we,

the podcast actually won't

come out until the following year.

And it's going to be on restoring joy,
a biblical approach to bullies,
forgiveness, and healing.

So if you have a child
that's dealing with trauma
or you just want to get
more information on how to
prepare for that,
it's something our family went through.

I didn't even realize until
I had an adult child that
experienced trauma and it
has crushed our family.

So you just never know what
it's going to hit.

So it's just some good
information to have.

But I'm excited to have our
guest on to talk about that
and just offer some some
help and some healing and.
some restorative joy into the season.

So tune in for that either

live next week on a
broadcast or on the podcast
the first week of January.

So thanks again, Suzanne.

Appreciate your time and
love all you shared and
blessings over your holidays.

And same for you.

Everybody,

we'll see you again here next

week on Empowering

Homeschool Conversations.

Until then, bye everybody and God bless.

This has been Empowering

Homeschool Conversations

provided by Sped Homeschool,

a nonprofit that empowers

families to home educate

diverse learners.

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