

Our Lady of Good Hope Program Gives Two ESL Students A Chance to Thrive.

Teaching ESL students provides a different challenge than teaching native English speakers. These students have different learning requirements, especially when it comes to English and literature. The following is an interview with a homeschool mom, Anna Maria, who has two ESL students at home.

Introduction:

When Anna Maria adopted two Ethiopian highschoolers, she was determined to give them the best education possible with their limited English skills. Since they came from a foreign country where English is spoken as a second language, they need extra flexibility in their English program to facilitate their language development. Anna Maria also has two other younger children who need her time and attention to stay on top of learning. As well as being a homeschool mom, she is also a gardener who grows herbs and produce for the local farmers markets. She is juggling many things at once, while prioritizing her children's schooling.

Anna Maria was looking for a curriculum that empathizes the sciences while not being overly intensive on literature and writing, since her students are not native English speakers. She has a certificate in TEFL, and as such, she understands the needs of her two ESL students.

Challenges:

Many homeschool programs are very intensive when it comes to reading and writing, which overwhelmed her students, who have different challenges than most children. What she needed was a program that focused on the sciences while also included English and literature lessons that were more flexible.

As Anna Maria says: "The curriculums we tried were not well adapted for our two adopted children. In the last one, the literature program was rigid and required heavy reading that they were not prepared for. The intensive writing was frustrating them. Also, I was not impressed by the chemistry and math. It was sort of thrown together, and not well explained and thought out. Overall, I found a lack of focus on science. This was clearly a curriculum created by people who were interested in the humanities, but it wasn't giving

our two students the opportunity to excel in math and science and succeed in English and literature.”

Why did you decide to choose Our Lady of Good Hope?

“When I researched Our Lady of Good Hope, I was impressed by their structure and focus on the sciences. They also had an online program that graded the students’ papers, giving me back valuable time. Now I could spend more time with my children teaching them, and working on my business.

“The reading requirements were simpler and more flexible, which fit better with our students’ needs. They were no longer struggling so much to get through long books with advanced English. The writing was closer to the level that they could succeed at, while also challenging them to improve their English skills.”

What results did you see? How did it help you improve?

“Now that we use Our Lady of Good Hope, I can see my students finally excelling. They responded better to the well-structured sciences that Our Lady of Good Hope has to offer. They are no longer so frustrated with the English lessons. My one child actually enjoys English now! Now that I have more time, I can spend it doing the things that I love: Tending to my garden and working on my business, and spending more quality time with my kids.”

Would you recommend Our Lady of Good Hope?

“I would strongly recommend Our Lady of Good Hope for anyone who may be in a similar situation. The program is intensive in math and science, while not overwhelming your students in literature and English. If your child struggles with ADHD, is an ESL student, or struggles in the humanities, try Our Lady of Good Hope. They offer online-grading and support, which saves you time, and their programs allows the students to work independently. I have tried several programs, and this was the first that allowed by two ESL students to soar to new heights.”