

# EDUCATIONING in a NEW NORMAL



“I made up that word “EDUCATIONING” – we have learn / learning, teach / teaching and vacation / vacationing.

Why does ECUCATION seem to STOP progressing? Like it ENDS: Do you have an “EDUCATION”?”

The NEW NORMAL was NOT made up by me, it was made up of all us who have accepted that the NEW NORMAL is something inevitable, that is happening TO us; as if we do not have an option, or opinion about what our “normal” will and should be...

We need to take back the reigns of FAMILY, the EDUCATIONING of the next generation and what NORMAL we want to create or re-create....

This is an outline of the TEDx talk that was presented in Alief Texas on Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020...  
Let’s journey together...

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Judith Arnold'.

Judith Arnold

# MEETING THE NEEDS OF STUDENTS IN A CHANGING WORLD

## Education NOW:

### EDUCATIONING in a New Normal

- **Parents are faced with enormous challenges right now in regards to their children's learning...**
  - Traditional Homes where both parents are working full time
  - Single Parent Homes
  - Group Homes
  - Wherever children are that need an education
- We've heard it already, but here it is again... **these are unprecedented circumstances in OUR times NOW and we need to assess our situations and come up with solutions... not wait for someone else to do it! This pandemic is a "blessing in disguise" as it's causing us ALL to re-evaluate our priorities and reassess how we are living out these personal principles NOW / DAILY!**
- **To lay a bit of a foundation here about me....:**
  - > From a socially "good" family, well-educated and respected. My dad was Ivy League educated, 2 of my brothers have PHD's and my sister was well recognized in the nursing field.
  - > Left home for college, was already taking the pipe dropped a bit of LSD- had little moral compass so FREE-DUMB was my mantra
  - > Met Jesus during the HIPPIE / JESUS PEOPLE REVOLUTION & joined a Christian Community and then...
  - > Moved to Europe for eight years as a missionary then Thailand for 25 - and have 6 amazing adult 'children'
- Through all this, **my kids "education" was paramount, especially since I was well indoctrinated in the essentialness of a degree to "be successful" ... (that word successful is 'valued' in a variety of ways)**
- Well that lays the framework for what I consider is the most relevant piece of me and my journey that I can share that I hope is helpful to you....
- **BREAK THE MOLD... EDUCATION NOW - A New Normal of Learning: EDUCATIONING**
- The current Education MOLD is already broken, and in my humble opinion, it was BROKEN long before the 'pandemic era'.... With months of 'quarantine', a relook at all things we considered normal: (exceptions to food, toilet paper, drinking and the internet - which are US essentials? Right) amazingly left "in tact".

**LET's Look at Education.... VDO clip**

[LINK: A world where fish are no longer forced to climb trees](#)

- An estimated 30% of our current population under 18 is 100% of our future....

Some stats on demographic comparisons....

- <https://www.statista.com/statistics/265759/world-population-by-age-and-region/>:  
[https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d18/tables/dt18\\_206.10.asp](https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d18/tables/dt18_206.10.asp)
- Are we going to follow in the 'norm' of the last generations model of: "If they show up for soccer practice but can't kick, play or even know about the game, they get a trophy because they can breathe? And the need for IMMEDIATE gratification: I want this NOW! Wow - that's really working well for us? RIGHT? Or where bullying. Pedophilia and child porn is accepted - because everyone is "different"?, or making whatever choice you want with disregard to human life, or the RIGHT for the victim to choose life? Where is DIGNITY & MORALITY?
- **Are we trying "to save the planet" but "losing how to live on it" ?...**
- Sorry to rabbit trail there, but felt it is important to emphasis that...
- Forty-five years ago - way before the internet - in a foreign country, with my own young children that needed an education - what was I to do? "Well go home", idiot... you may be thinking, THAT was not an option... So...I began looking around...

- **What is essential to learn and what is learning? How does someone learn? .... And this is what I came up with...**

1) *My children need to be able to read well. OK* ✓

2) *What do my children NEED to learn NOW and WHY is it important?* ✓

3) *WHO else is in the same situation as I AM?* ✓

#### **READING - but "I'm not a teacher?"**

- There's an important reason for this being first... here's a personal story...
- *FORTY-FIVE years ago – with homemade picture books and "DICK & JANE" British Readers my oldest son learned to read by the age of 5- (BRAG moment: He and his wife run an international school in SEA)*
- *To when my youngest of 6 was born 15 years later when "Home Schooling" now had curriculums and available for \$100 a year! Sign me up! And "the internet" bloomed...*
- *The irony is that although there is a 15 year gap in their ages and in available resources, both of my children learned to read at about the same age and are both currently life-long-learners...*
- **What is the implication?**
- > **It's NOT about availability, it's about WILL...** What do you WANT for the next generation, and what are YOU going to do about it NOW? How do your priorities need to shift? Do you both need to work to stay in that house, or should you downsize your living space to UPSIZE your kids capacity and hunger for LEARNING?
- > Reading is #1 because I realized that reading unlocks pretty much EVERYTHING...
  - **linked with a LOVE for learning that is not taught, it is caught...**
- **LEARNING (I don't like calling it education... this process is a progressive VERB! We call it EDUCATIONING....**
  - **USE everything as a learning moment** - the obvious ones are: cooking, home repairs, cleaning, etc... shopping is a great one... make the shopping list together, talk about meals, costs per person, discuss the budget, choose where to go and you sit in the cart (!) and let THEM shop. Discuss value, weight, percentages and costs or cost per person...

- **Learning just these skills I think pretty much covers everything they teach in math at school in the 4th grade.**
- **How about taking the car in for repairs:**
  - Again, why do you need to get the car repaired? Let's pop the hood & look and see how this engine works, how does gas ignite the piston and turn the combine or (whatever happens?...) THERE is a world of practical learning opportunities and information just in that ONE thing...
- **A suggestion is BEFORE starting a project - get a commitment to completing it! Write with them a "contract" they need to sign... this teaches SO many EQ skills of endurance, integrity, honesty, commitment etc.**

- **2) What did my kids need to LEARN NOW and WHY?:**

- This is what I came up with when my children were young:
  - 1) The language of the land they were living in to supplement fluency in all skills of their mother tongue - to effectively communicate in all mediums: auditorily through speech, kinesthetically, visually by written expression, organizationally, inter-personally and intra-personally.
  - 2) Compassion, empathy, and Love for those who are different than you... always looking for their good qualities and how we can learn from them
  - 3) How to navigate any "system" to respectfully and honestly get the results that are needed...
  
- Let's go back in time 30 years or so, South East Asia - a rattling old truck driving through an Asian market, we were a few adults and several children - waving at the vendors – the sellers in the market knew that Thursday was "pick up day" - Pick up day? We'd drive through the local market every Thursday to pick up donations for the local orphanage - where 450 kids, sharing rooms, beds, and bars of soap, often with 1 pair of shoes each, living in fear while avoiding in-house predators, ruthless staff and unimaginable conditions. Where most of the good food provided by the government was taken by the staff - so we would bring food donated from the community, regularly feeding the kids, playing games, teaching lessons, singing songs (my children did this part - choosing the songs, games or lessons and acting out the parts and communicating with the students from the stage) We would partner with local businesses (domestic and foreign) to help these children with shoes, uniforms, soccer balls and basics for survival (thankfully through prayer, connections with local officials and time - MUCH has changed for the better in these orphanages)... My children learned multiple skills through these activities: Language (they did all these activities in Thai) Organizational skills, Public Speaking and Performing fueled by Compassion, Empathy and Love... Our family and friends did projects together like this through the duration of our 25 years in Thailand.
  
- My kids would "home school" 3 days a week, then don uniforms and head off to the local school for 2 days where they were immersed in the language and culture - all of them to this day are fluent in that language and some of them use it in their lives and businesses.
  
- I walked in one day to pick up my youngest kids from school and there was laughter coming from the teachers' lounge - I peeked my head in and there was my 6 year old daughter holding up an English reader, teaching the school's English Teachers pronunciation! This is an example of EDUCATIONING – where both were teaching and learning... a progressive verb!
  
- My last point - **WHO else is in the same situation** - we do not even need to look too far to see this in our homes, communities, cities, states and nations....

- YOU **will** connect to others that are in the same dilemma: **if you WANT TO... EDUCATIONING NOW...** There is something about your energy, vibration that is linked with a strong focus that will bring what you desire TO YOU... this is NOT MYTH, but proven fact...

Here is a very basic outline of what can be done NOW to rectify the EDUCATION challenge....

- Ask your spouse / partner and most of all your children what they want to do about EDUCATION?
  - **LISTEN to their responses**... getting the kids “by-in” is a priority - they have to WANT this and feel they are a part of the decision-making process
    - What if they say: “I want to play computer games all day on line with my friends” - instead of the classic response - LIKE HELL YOU WILL! Think about it? What does your child LOVE to do? How can you work WITH them to get what you BOTH want?? Everything involving others should always be a WIN WIN (thank you Stephen Covey - review the 7 Habits...) this is where it applies the MOST...
  - Talk to your spouse/partner or even another parent who is in the same situation - and decide together how to have the next session about how to get the kids on-board for an EDUCATION RESPONSE NOW - you will know what to do!
    - **REMEMBER - we are re-thinking education - what is relevant and what is going to be relevant for your kids to learn NOW - not what you learned years ago!!! Shift YOUR paradigm - LISTEN to them...**
- **COME up with a plan - start SMALL and simple...**
  - IE: Let’s all get up at 8 AM tomorrow and make pancakes and take a bike ride (if getting up in the morning is difficult) then do that consistently for 1-2 weeks - build a habit... **talk with your kids and most importantly: LISTEN!**
- **FIND likeminded parents** - this will often be your kids friends!!! Talk with them and agree on what this looks like -
  - IE: Monday and Wednesday from 9-1 all of our kids will come to your place for A & then Tues & Thurs they will come to our place for... and FRIDAY we have an outing all together... if it costs money, the kids can help raise 50% so they feel responsible to “make it work”. Having kids carry some financial responsibility helps them develop and grow many needed skills...
    - Art, music, reading, math, woodworking, mechanics, sewing, e-business skills... the subjects are endless depending on you and your “teams” passions and expertise. If you can’t teach physics and you have a science nerd in the group or USE the library and internet... **just DO NOT IGNORE THEIR INTERESTS**
      - They may lose or change interests - this is NORMAL and to be expected... **avoid forcing children to meet YOUR expectations**... (I made my mistakes on this one! One of my children has an exceptional voice - I PUSHED her to perform at a young age and she still refuses to sing in public... she’ll bounce back,”)
    - **...honesty, forgiveness, and time are inseparable in generating positive responses...**
      - **THEN REMEMBER to:**
        - **Follow up regularly** as a family (1x a week, 2x mos) to check in and get FEED BACK as to how it is going
        - **KEEP records** - simple ones - on a share file - of what was done at each session and a few words response to how a child is doing and if anything came up - THIS is very important= let all involved “parents” have access... REMEMBER to stay positive, avoid gossip and negativity but communicate!
        - **The kids are not the only ones EDUCATIONING**

- As a child grows and needs more, discuss it with the child and work with them to get answers. Many Community Colleges offer free classes for school aged children, and often give college credit.
- SO from one parent to another.... LET's PICK UP THE TORCH and DO THE JOB ONLY WE CAN for our children and the next generation – the time is NOW and the person is YOU!
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**SO, EDUCATION NOW - A New NORMAL OF LEARNING**

**> You've "got this" - as we BREAK THE MOLD together**

**So I ask you: Is this an "IDEA WORTH SPREADING"?**