

## **Cultural instructions provide a strong foundation.**

Submitted by: Michael C.

I want to inform any parent that is looking for a way to engage your child. Now, when there are so many things out here to distract them from their studies during and after school. I will explain my dilemma. My daughter Neisha C. is more of an introvert child but very friendly when she gets to know you. She tends to have trouble being focused at her Middle School, which I will not name. She said it was mostly because the teachers there are boring and do not care about the students. In our household, there are two parents, but we work. Since Neisha C. is the baby girl she's usually with me more than her mother, she looks, and acts like me. We are both individuals who tend to stay to themselves. I would attend the school functions and teacher-parent meetings, but the results were still the same each report card time. So, one of the elders at our church asked if I would be interested in putting Neisha in an after-school experimental classroom setting with other kids. Some would-be students her age and others from a lower age group. I did not have anything else to lose, so why not. The class consists of certified teachers, peer-students (H.S.), and behavior specialists. One of several things that were good about this program was the interaction of teachers, specialists, peer students, and students in the classroom for its cultural content. They would try different things and see how the students responded. I notice they used music in all their lessons, interaction, and rest time. Neisha loves Science, and they challenged her in that subject to excel, but they also strengthen other areas that she was weakest in performing. Their teaching was something she enjoyed. She enjoyed the fact she could ask more questions and not feel singled out. It would make her more assertive on all her other subjects. The group work and individual sessions were provided by the program teacher, peer-student, and a behavior specialist to sort out any underlying issues. The process was part of the solution to bring Neisha out of her shell. It gave her more confidence and improved her self-esteem as well as her grades for the next reporting period! With the music concept, she was able to remember and retain more to help in doing her homework. It also created a much better relationship with others concerning communication. In turn, that helped with her schoolwork. Which now was not a chore anymore. I would recommend this cultural concept to anyone that needs help in getting their child engaged with the schoolwork.

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Parent