

# Kathryn Porter, M.S.

## Curriculum Vitae

### **PROFILE**

Kathryn Porter is an educational consultant who uses her savvy in writing, public speaking, and media relations to advocate for families with special needs. Dedicated to helping families of children with unique learning differences, she specializes in outside-the-box homeschooled students. As a creative problem solver, she partners with parents in offering solutions to educational challenges. A good listener, she values parental input in developing customized educational plans that include goal setting and curriculum recommendations.

### **WORK PORTFOLIO**

#### *Special Needs*

Homeschool Evaluator; Self-employed

- Supports parents in complying with state regulations for homeschooling. Includes review of current program, curriculum recommendations, and certification of educational progress.
- Writes evaluations containing two reports—one for the schools with minimal information and a more detailed parent copy. Specializes in students with learning challenges, but also accepts traditional students.
- Counsels parents on disadvantages of using public school supports including concerns about data mining and increased regulation. Advises home educators to give the public schools only what is required by state law, as school districts often ask for additional information.

Homeschool Enrichment Teacher; Various co-ops

- Currently teaching at High Country Home Educators, which in the past has served over 300 families in a given semester with over 900 students.
- Designs classes for unique and traditional learners in subjects spanning across Reading, Math, Science, History, Business, Writing, and Theater.

Special Education Teacher; Cheyenne Mountain Charter Academy

- Wrote IEP's, tested students using the Woodcock Johnson, and supported regular education staff.
- Worked with students with hearing impairments, mild learning disabilities, and bi-polar challenges.

Classroom Aide; The Children's Ark

- Served as a dedicated aid to an elementary aged student with a history of aggression at a residential care facility for adjudicated male youth. This was a non-traditional classroom setting.
- Supported teachers and counselors with other students as needed.
- Job required knowledge and use of physical restraints for managing violent behaviors. Helped with behavioral management of boys and young men ages 7 to 17 convicted as juveniles of violent crimes.

### Paraprofessional Substitute; Colorado Springs School District 11

- Supported the special education classroom in various elementary, middle, and high schools as a part-time substitute aide.
- Assisted students with a variety of disabilities ranging from those who needed a g-tube for feeding, older children unable to independently use the toilet, and non-verbal students.

### *Writing*

#### Books:

Too Much Stuff (Beacon Hill; 2006)

Too Much Stuff, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Beacon Hill; 2012)

#### Other Publishing Credits (numerous articles on various topics):

Politichicks

The Old School House Magazine

Homeschool Blogger

Focus on Your Child

Pikes Peak Bulletin

#### Web Site Content:

[www.clutterwise.com](http://www.clutterwise.com)

[www.exceptionalpaws.com](http://www.exceptionalpaws.com)

[www.terrificarverforhd20.com](http://www.terrificarverforhd20.com)

#### Technical Scripts:

Wrote scripts to resolve computer issues as a technical support specialist for Gateway Computers.

### *Speaking*

#### Conventions and Retreats:

- LEAH (Loving Education at Home) Upstate New York Homeschool Conference; organizing and special needs workshops
- CHEC (Christian Home Educators of Colorado) Rocky Mountain Super Conference on the Family; organizing and special needs workshops
- Salvation Army Women's Regional Leadership Retreat (PA); organizing presentation
- Glorieta Writers Conference (NM); marketing workshop
- LaMar Writers Conference (CO); marketing workshop
- Colorado Christian Writers Conference (CO); organizing workshop

#### Group Presentations:

- HOME (Helping Our Members Educate); Common Core workshop
- Pikes Peak Library District (CO); organizing and special needs workshops

- MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) in various locations in Colorado and New Mexico; organizing workshops
- Springs Writers (CO); marketing workshop
- Farmington Public Library (NM); organizing workshop
- Family Life (CO); a housing and support program for single mothers; organizing workshop
- Springs Community Church (CO); preschool program special needs in-service
- First EV Free Evangelical Church (CO); organizing seminar for women's ministry

### *Media*

#### Television

- Past frequent guest on Creative Living, a PBS show broadcast worldwide
- Interviewed on various local broadcast affiliates as organizing expert in NM, CO, and NY

#### Radio

- Joe America Radio
- Common Sense Radio
- Albuquerque Connects
- The Janet Parshall Show
- Generations with Kevin Swanson
- Weekend Magazine
- Walkin' the Walk
- Interviewed on various podcasts as an organizing expert
- Interviewed on various local morning broadcasts as organizing expert around the country

## **EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS**

University of Colorado at Colorado Springs; Masters Degree in Special Education

Eastern New Mexico University; Bachelors of Science in Sociology (minor in Statistics)

Erie Community College (NY); Associates Degree in Criminal Justice

### *Speaker Training*

Competent Communicator; Toastmasters

CLASSeminar Student Alumni

## **INTERESTS**

### Special Needs Advocate

- Is the older sister to a brother with Autism and through him has been involved in the special needs arena since the age of ten, including attending IEP meetings as a sibling, volunteering for the Special Olympics, teaching life skills, and assisting family with planning for long-term care.
- Is passionate about serving families with special needs who feel desperate, overwhelmed, and in need of help.

- Is a member of a military support group for families of children with Autism and several traditional support groups. Advocates for special needs issues in these groups.
- Founded Exceptional Colorado Home Educators (ECHOES), a support group for families of children with or without a specific diagnosis who experience unique homeschooling challenges.

#### Politics

- Rallies parents to get involved in reclaiming education for their children by teaching them how current educational reforms hurt students (*including homeschoolers*), families, and the nation as a whole.
- Presses for parental rights, especially in education.
- Researches current events, particularly as they relate to education and homeschooling.
- Holds local politicians accountable for their positions on issues and their votes in the legislature through direct communication, attending events, speaking at meetings, and writing about them.
- Works on campaigns part-time, specializing in opposition research, but also walks neighborhood precincts, makes calls for phone bank events, edits campaign literature, and organizes fundraisers.

#### Motherhood

- Recognizes that her most important job is being a mom. Loves writing, speaking, and providing services to other homeschoolers, but family comes first.
- Encourages parents to embrace their roles as moms and dads, reminding them that healthy family relationships are purchased with the currency of both quality and *quantity* time.