

Jackie Cohen, M.Ed

LEARNING SPECIALIST

WHAT SETS ME APART

I am committed to making the work relationship an **enjoyable** and **creative** one for all of my clients. I plan and tailor lessons based on what transpired during the previous lesson and where I want to see them **grow going forward**. If I plan something, and it is too frustrating or stressful (I can tell right away if this is the case), I will spontaneously make changes to the lesson. Depending on the day and if I already have a relationship with them, I may just encourage them and be honest with them, explaining that the process may be difficult in the beginning, but will get easier with more practice. I would then **challenge them to try what is quite difficult for them**. I make my best effort to plan lessons that relate to their affinities and interests, as this helps to keep them engaged. I also like to laugh with them at times and maintain a sense of humor. I have found this approach to foster improvement in skills and confidence which, based on my experience in the field, often carries over to school in general if they were previously not enjoying school. I like to communicate with their schools, classroom teachers, specialists and parents regularly.

I strongly encourage children at every age to learn their strengths and areas of need and to advocate for themselves in order to **build confidence** and **become as independent as possible**. With many children, this drastically shortens the amount of time that they need to work with me. It is always my goal to support your child in becoming increasingly independent to the point that they can “graduate” from working with me or begin to meet with me less often.